3月のライオン

羽海野チカ

March comes in like a lion
Chica Umino

JETS COMICS

3月のライオン 11

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羽海野チカ

白泉社
4521

ISBN978-4-592-14521-9

C9979 ¥486E

雑誌 44331-82
定価 本体486円+税

白泉社

川本家に自分勝手な提案を繰り出す彼女たちの父親・誠二郎に、一歩も引かずに渡り合う零。
あかり、ひなた、美咲、相米二、川本家の皆が彼の存在の大きさを感じていた…。
零が自分の幼少期から現在に至るまでを振り返ったスピンオフ・ファイターも併録。
様々な人間が、何かを取り戻していく優しい物語です。

（平成27年9月刊）

March comes in like a lion

Chica Umino

m e s s a g e

Recent Photo of the Author's cat

羽海野チカ

Chica Umino

Recently Mama has been saying
"You look just like Jude Law"
when she pets me.
...Mm. Well, it's not like I can't see
where Mama is coming from.
After all, whenever anyone comes to
visit, all I need to do is say 'Hello', and
they say 'Kya~~!'
...I understand.
This is what they call star power.
It's tough...
After all, I cannot control that shine.
All I can do is 'be who I am'.
Yes... For me, shining is a completely
normal state to be in.

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羽海野チカ

将棋監修●先崎学九段

11

3月のライオン 11 contents

Chapter 105 A Small Talk 7

Chapter 106 Fun Dinner 25

Chapter 107 Osaka ① 33

Chapter 108 Osaka ② 47

Chapter 109 Osaka ③ 61

Chapter 110 Osaka ④ 75

Chapter 111 The Night the Cuckoo Sang 93

Chapter 112 Sunday ① 111

Chapter 113 Sunday ② 125

Chapter 114 Gentle Song 141

Spinoff - Fighter 161

This is a work of fiction. There is no connection to actual people, groups, or events whatsoever.

Chapter. 105
A Small Talk

3月のライオン

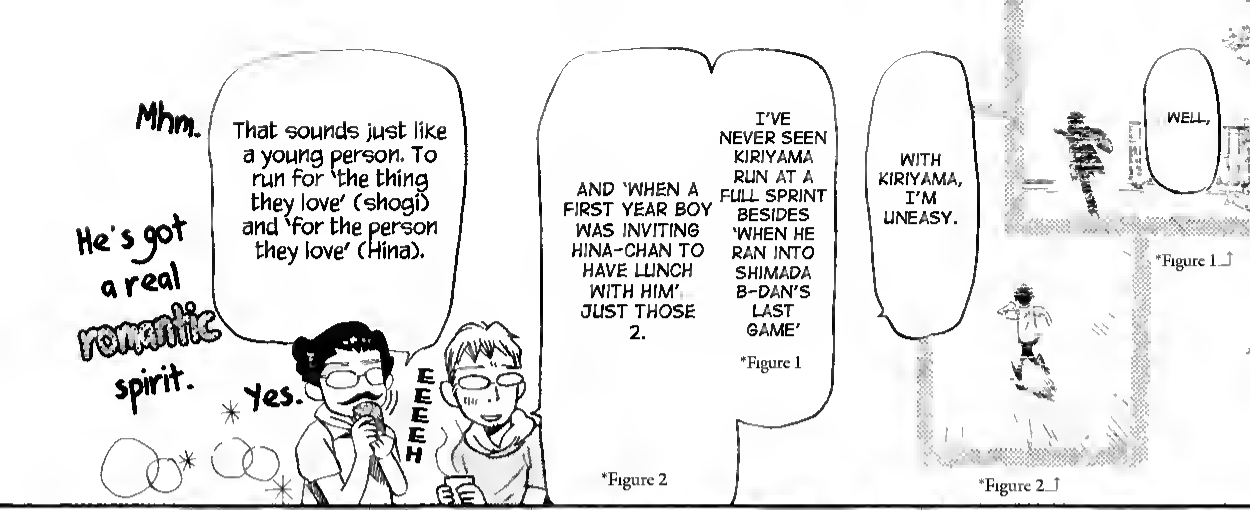
March comes in like a lion

Chica Umino

SENSEI,
HOW DO YOU GET ENGAGED TO A PERSON?
PUFUAAHH
SFX: POTATA... (DRIP DRIP)
ポタタ…
I'VE DONE SOME SEARCHES BUT I CAN'T FIND ANYTHING.
IS THERE NO LEGAL PROCESS TO IT?

SFX TAN TATAN TATATANN SUH... BOTA BOTA (DRIP DRIP)
I CAN'T BELIEVE SUCH AN IMPORTANT THING ISN'T MAINTAINED BY LAWS...
...DAMMIT.
WHAT IS GOING ON WITH THIS COUNTRY?!!
SFX KAKUKAKU KAKAGAGAGA GAGAGA
I think if you raised your voice on the issue the country would pipe in with...
'What the hell is wrong with you', I'd imagine.
Huh? What? Engaged ??
Something happened last night, didn't it? Didn't it? Didn't it? Didn't it?
*Malfunctioning due to shock
RIGHT ON THE HEELS OF YESTERDAY, WE ARE ALREADY AT THIS, ARE WE...?
I SUPPOSE I SHOULD SAY THAT'S OUR KIRIYAMA-KUN...
MY, MY...
EVEN IF THERE'S NO LEGAL WEIGHT TO IT, IF I SEND HER A RING AND SHE EQUIPS IT,
THEN CAN WE BE IN A 'STATE OF ENGAGEMENT'?
UH, WHAT? HOLD UP.
QUIT TALKING ABOUT 'ENGAGEMENT' LIKE IT'S AN ABNORMAL STATUS CONDITION!
OH, I SEE!
SO WEARING THAT TYPE OF ACCESSORY ON SCHOOL GROUNDS IS AGAINST THE RULES ...?!!
DAMN ...

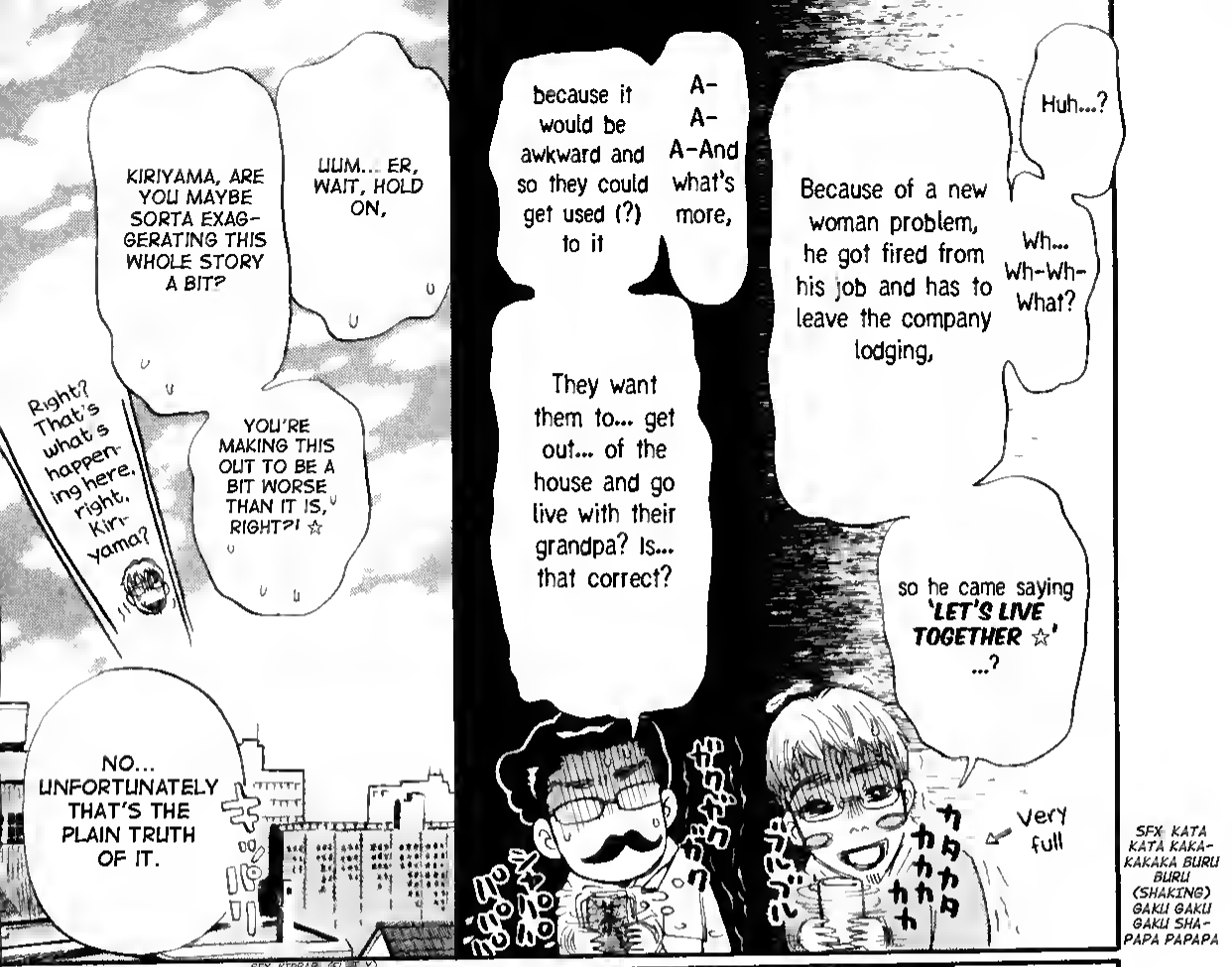
Hey, want to come see the game on Sunday?
——NO!! AN 'ENGAGEMENT RING' WOULD BE A TRULY NECESSARY ITEM ON A SCHOOL CAMPUS, WOULDN'T IT?!
——THAT SHOULD BE THE TRUE FORM OF WHAT WE CALL THE 'ENGAGEMENT RING'!!
PROTECTING SOMEONE DEAR FROM THE RIFFRAFF SQUIRMING AROUND THE SCHOOL...
What, are you stupid or something...?
Did you not notice.....? I've always been watching you, you know.
Hand over that heavy bag you're carrying!!
In spring it the dawn that is most beautiful. As the light creeps over the hills...
T/N SHE'S READING A LINE FROM THE PILLOW BOOK OF SEI SHOUNAGON
YES. I'VE GOT TO HAVE A TALK DIRECTLY WITH THE PRINCIPAL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE...
THIS STATE OF HAVING HALF OF A CLASS BEING BOYS IS UTTERLY ABYSMAL!!
DID HE REALLY JUST SAY THAT?!
DID THIS BOY JUST SAY THAT ALL OF THE MALE STUDENTS IN THIS SCHOOL ARE RIFFRAFF?
HUUUH?!
What a 7th-grade heart he has!
SFX CHIRU CHIRU (SLURP SLURP)
THOUGH I WILL NOT SAY I CANNOT SYMPATHIZE WITH KIRIYAMA-KUN.
HINA-SAN REALLY IS A CUTE ONE.
EVEN IN OUR SCHOOL
THERE'S A LOT OF EYES FLITTERING TOWARDS KAWAMOTO.
MM— WELL, YOU HAVE A POINT.
I wonder if that girl is a first year..
Hey— that girl's— kinda cute, isn't she?
She's so cute.
Came here to hear an explanation


Mhm.
He's got a real romantic spirit.
That sounds just like a young person. To run for 'the thing they love' (shogi) and 'for the person they love' (Hina).
Yes.
EEEEH
AND 'WHEN A FIRST YEAR BOY WAS INVITING HINA-CHAN TO HAVE LUNCH WITH HIM' JUST THOSE 2.
I'VE NEVER SEEN KIRIYAMA RUN AT A FULL SPRINT BESIDES 'WHEN HE RAN INTO SHIMADA B-DAN'S LAST GAME'
*Figure 1
*Figure 2
WITH KIRIYAMA, I'M UNEASY.
WELL,
*Figure 1
*Figure 2

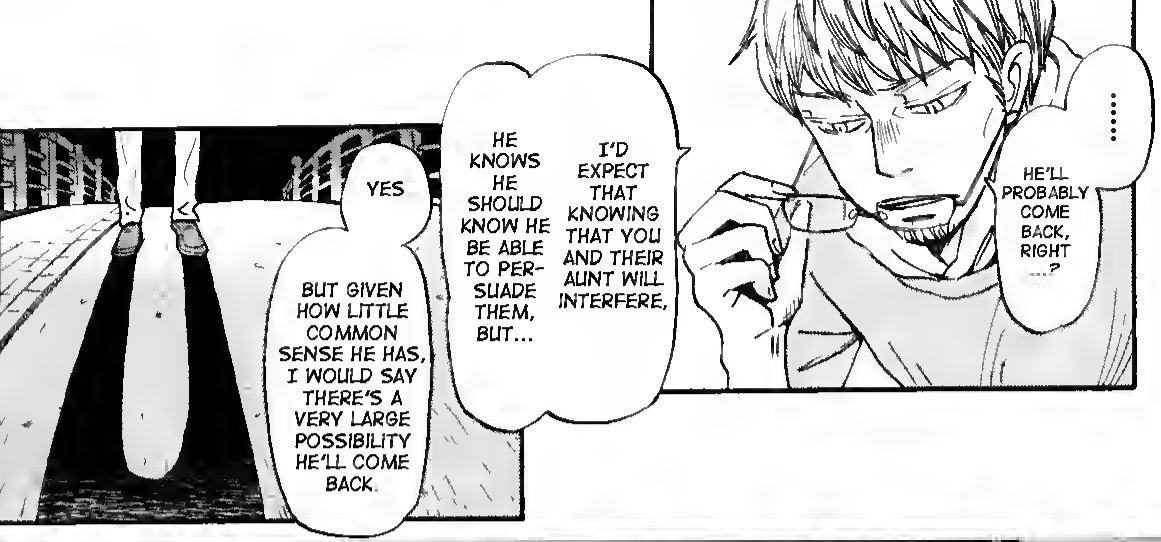
THANK YOU SO MUCH!!
YES.
THAT'S REALLY THE RESULT OF ALL OF YOU TWO'S HARD WORK...
HEY, KIRIYAMA,
RIGHT NOW SUTEO (PSEUDONYM) HAS WITHDRAWN FROM THAT PLACE, RIGHT?

AND ON TOP OF THAT
THERE'S SOMETHING EVEN MORE UNFORTUNATE...
HAAA...
No, no, no, no, no, no, no...
OWOW OWOW OW OW OW...
—BUT THE TRULY UNFORTUNATE THING IS
YOUR THEORIES... ALL TURNED OUT TO BE TRUE!!

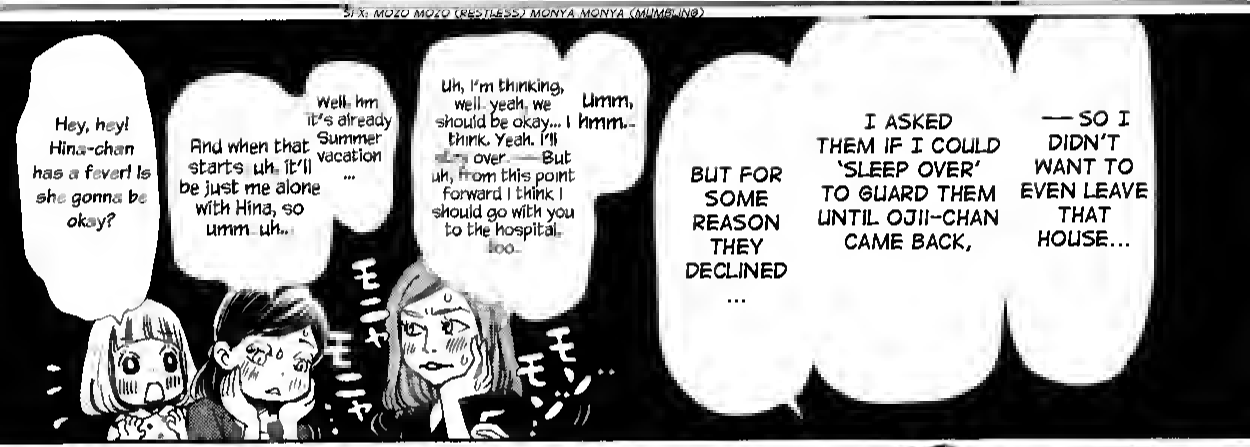
SFX: KIPPARI (PLAINLY) ZUUUN


Huh...?
Because of a new woman problem, he got fired from his job and has to leave the company lodging,
Wh... Wh-Wh- What?
so he came saying 'LET'S LIVE TOGETHER ☆' ...?
Very full
SFX KATA KATA KAKA- KAKAKA BURU BURU (SHAKING) GAKU GAKU GAKU SHA- PAPA PAPAPA
A- A- A-And what's more,
because it would be awkward and so they could get used (?) to it
They want them to... get out... of the house and go live with their grandpa? Is... that correct?
KIRIYAMA, ARE YOU MAYBE SORTA EXAG- GERATING THIS WHOLE STORY A BIT?
UUM... ER, WAIT, HOLD ON,
YOU'RE MAKING THIS OUT TO BE A BIT WORSE THAN IT IS, RIGHT?! ☆
Right? That's what's happen- ing here, right, Kiri- yama?
NO... UNFORTUNATELY THAT'S THE PLAIN TRUTH OF IT.
SFX KIPPARI (FLIRTY)
JUST WHAT KIND OF LOOK
WITHOUT THINKING ABOUT IT AT ALL?
BUT THEN HOW CAN HE SAY ALL THAT...
IS HE BEING REALLY AGGRESSIVE? OR IS HE REALLY NOT THINKING AT ALL?
DID THAT GUY HAVE ON HIS FACE?

IT LOOKED JUST LIKE...
that looked just like Hina-chan's when she laughs.
poured out of his mouth
Those unpleasant words
eyes of Akari-san.
looked just like the laughing, always kind,
And those eyes attached to that unpleasant face I still feel like I want to punch
— And it really made me realize
I kept feeling dizzy.
They were so undeniably similar,
HINA-CHAN AND
AKARI-SAN'S.
that they're connected by blood.


HE'LL PROBABLY COME BACK, RIGHT ...?
.....
I'D EXPECT THAT KNOWING THAT YOU AND THEIR AUNT WILL INTERFERE,
HE KNOWS HE SHOULD KNOW HE BE ABLE TO PERSUADE THEM, BUT...
YES
BUT GIVEN HOW LITTLE COMMON SENSE HE HAS, I WOULD SAY THERE'S A VERY LARGE POSSIBILITY HE'LL COME BACK.

SFX: MOZO MOZO (RESTLESS) MONYA MONYA (MUMBLING)


Hey, hey! Hina-chan has a fever! Is she gonna be okay?
And when that starts uh, it'll be just me alone with Hina, so umm uh...
Well, hm it's already Summer vacation ...
Uh, I'm thinking, well yeah, we should be okay... I think. Yeah. I'll [illegible] over.—But uh, from this point forward I think I should go with you to the hospital. Boo.
Umm, hmm...
モニャ
モニャ
モゾ...
BUT FOR SOME REASON THEY DECLINED ...
I ASKED THEM IF I COULD 'SLEEP OVER' TO GUARD THEM UNTIL OJII-CHAN CAME BACK,
—SO I DIDN'T WANT TO EVEN LEAVE THAT HOUSE...

A BOY THAT JUST PROPOSED (WITHOUT EVEN DATING FIRST)? HAVING THAT UNDER THE SAME ROOF AS A GIRL IN THE FIRST YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL WOULD BE UH, SORTA...
IN A DIFFERENT SORT OF WAY THAT THEY DECLINED
THAT SEEMS A BIT HARSH, MAYBE BECAUSE THEY'RE THINKING 'WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN'
IT'S LIKE THEY'RE NOT WORRYING ABOUT WHAT UNFORTUNATE THINGS COULD HAPPEN...
I FEEL LIKE THEY'RE NOT QUITE AS AWARE AS THEY SHOULD BE OF THE GRAVITY OF THE SITUATION...
YEAH, I MEAN... I HADN'T THOUGHT OF IT THIS WAY. BUT THEY MAY HAVE REALIZED
THEY HAD A SURPRISINGLY DANGEROUS ANIMAL WITHIN POINT-BLANK RANGE...
WELL, TO PUT IT BRIEFLY, IT WAS A GOOD DECISION
ON THE PART OF THAT AUNT AND BIG SISTER.

STILL....
I'M SURPRISED ABOUT THE KIRIYAMA BOY LAST NIGHT.
Mmm...
HONESTLY... IN A WAY IT EVEN MADE THE SHOCK ABOUT SEIJIROU PALE IN COMPARISON ...
Aaah... It makes me feel uncomfortable just thinking about it...
WELL...
I KIND OF THOUGHT THERE MIGHT BE SOMETHING LIKE THAT GOING ON.
SO
WHAT ABOUT KIRIYAMA-KUN?
DOES HE PERHAPS LOVE HINA OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT?
—WHAT WITH ALL THAT WATCHING HER STUDY— You know?
YES
'A FAMILY'
SO A FAMILY?
I SEE
WHAT'S MORE, WE IMAGINED THIS WHOLE SERIES OF ACTIONS...
Looks like our women's intuition was right on target...
SFX. TOPOPO

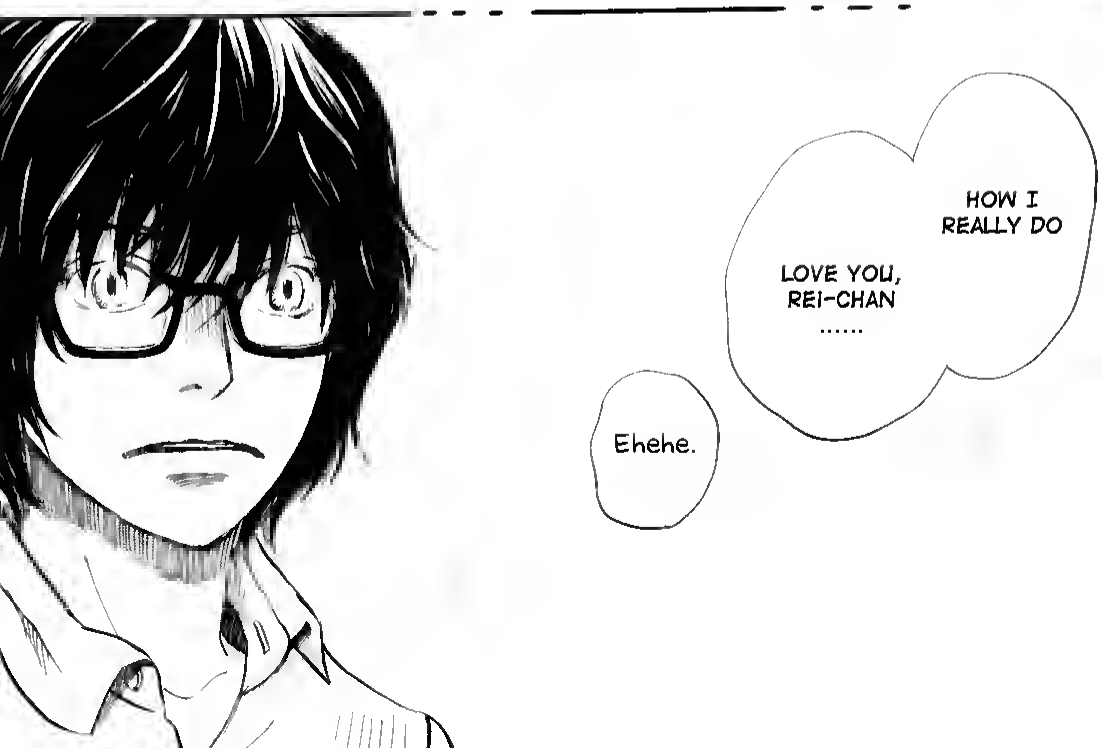
I never would've guessed he'd pull a 'light-speed approach' at this point.....
START PRESSING IN A SINGLE BOUND LIKE THAT.
HE WOULD 'GO BACK'. AND THEN
WHEN I SAID ALL THAT I NEVER WOULD'VE THOUGHT
I guess I should say I'd expect nothing less from Kiriyama-kun... I mean he's really exceeded all our expectations again...
WOULD BE A NEAR-IMPOSSIBLE TASK
AT THIS POINT, TO GO BACK TO SOMETHING FRAGILE LIKE 'ROMANTIC LOVE'
IN A SINGLE BOUND, IT LOOKS LIKE HE MADE IT ALL THE WAY THERE
Helps Out Around the House
HONESTLY WE COULDN'T ASK FOR A BETTER PARTNER FOR HER.
Hard Worker
Smart
Serious
Studies
Makes Money
Earnest
Hina is Important to Him
Kind
Gets Along with Momo
Gets Along with the Cats
WELL 'NOT BAD'...
BUT KIND OF WELL REALLY STRANGE
WELL... TO BE HONEST, I WAS THINKING 'HE'S NOT BAD.'
Candidate for Future Meijin
Promising shogi
WHAT DO WE DO, AUNTIE?
YOU'RE ASKING ME? WELL...
HMMOOO
HINA FEELS ABOUT ALL THIS?
—BUT HOW DO YOU THINK

SFX: OWAAA
He's so cooooo!
PROBABLY BECAUSE OF THAT CUTENESS ABOUT THIM THAT MAKES YOU FEEL CONTENT JUST FROM LOOKING AT HIM...
Hmm...
'EY!
OH, WHAT ABOUT TAKAHASHI-KUN?
THAT BASEBALL BOY... THE MILK SELLER'S SON
DOES SHE HAVE SOME OTHER BOY SHE LIKES?
SFX: SUUU SUU...
HUH?
WHAT, A WARNING?
DO YOU THINK MAYBE I SHOULD GIVE A WARNING ?
HM... WHAT SHOULD I DO...?
NO...
RECENTLY SHE'S BEEN TALKING NONSTOP ABOUT TSUGUMI-CHAN YEAH.
THEN WHAT ABOUT HER NEW SCHOOL?
ARE THERE ANY BOYS SHE'S INTERESTED IN IN HER CLASS OR ANYTHING?
HMM, I SEE
Kyaa!
Help meee!
SUSU
KYAAH!
SFX: GYUUUU (SQUEEZE)
TO KIRIYAMA-KUN!!
THEY GET ALONG PLENTY WELL ALREADY AND HE'S A GOOD BOY,
SO THE TWO OF THEM WERE ALONE LATE INTO THE NIGHT WHEN SHE WAS STUDYING FOR HER EXAMS AND THINGS LIKE THAT,
BUT NOW THAT HE'S GONE AND PROPOSED TO HER I'M NOT SO SURE ABOUT THAT KIND OF THING...
I MEAN, WHAT IF SOMETHING HAPPENS?!!
AH... YOU HAVE A POINT.
HM~~

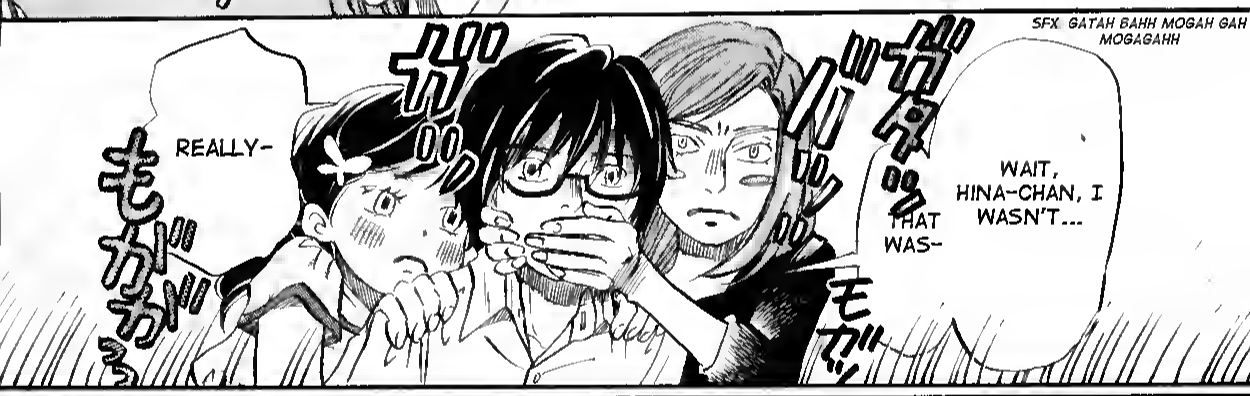
SFX: ZASAGASAH
I THOUGHT THEY LOOKED PRETTY TASTY.
HERE ARE SOME SOUVE-NIRS.
SORRY I'VE BEEN OVER EVERY DAY RECENTLY.
They smell heavenly! And they look deli-ciooous!
Oh my, what nice peaches!!
WE'RE SORRY YOU'VE HAD TO COME OVER SO OFTEN.
NO, NO,
GOOD EVE-NIIING!
I THINK... WE COULD TELL THEM THAT MATTER HOW MUCH HE LIKES HINA.
HE CAN'T BE RUSHING INTO THINGS...
HAHH
Oh, right Before Hina wakes up
AUNTIE!
AUNTIE!
SFX: KOSO (WHISPER) CHIRAH (GLANCE)
YES, SHE'S FINE
SHE TOOK SOME MEDICINE AND I THINK IT'S JUST A COLD.
IS SHE ALL RIGHT?
OH, THAT'S NOT GOOD
SO RIGHT NOW SHE'S UP IN HER ROOM SLEEPING.
WELL AFTER THAT SHE ACTUALLY DID HAVE A FEVER,
AH!
UM, WHERE'S HINA-CHAN?

SFX: UOHHON KOHON... KATAN
KIRIYAMA-KUN,
UM, ERR...
WELL, ABOUT HINA...
SFX: SUSUUUUUHH POOOHH FURA FURA... (SHAKING) ZURURU...
AH, HINA-CHAN! ARE YOU FEELING OKAY?
...Ah.
Cold compress
Every-body's he~~re.
OOF...
Seems to have gotten brought along and took an afternoon nap...
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE OKAY, HINA?
YOUR VOICE KINDA SOUNDS REALLY NASALLY
My throat is really dry...
WELL, YOU DO HAVE A FEVER.
WANT SOME PEACHES? KIRIYAMA-KUN BROUGHT SOME FOR US.
Okay!
SFX: GUI GUII~~~HHH
Huwa aa aaa
Oh, right!
You were in the dream I had, Rei-chan.
OH?
WHAT KIND OF DREAM?
SFX: POOH...

WELL,
AFTER I WOKE UP FROM THAT DREAM,
I THOUGHT ....
WITH ALL THAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY
I WAS REALLY SURPRISED
BUT...
AND THEN
THERE WERE ALL THESE BLACK BIRDS IN THE ENTRANCEWAY AND THEY COULDN'T GET OUT
REI-CHAN SWOOPED IN DROVE THEM ALL AWAY.
Rei-chaaan
Waaah!!
uoooh
バサバサ
ポイッ
ふしっ
SFX: BAZA BASA FOIH BASA BASA WASHH!


HOW I REALLY DO LOVE YOU, REI-CHAN .....
Ehehe.

I HAD NO IDEA WHAT TO DO ABOUT MY DAD...
I WAS REALLY SCARED.
BUT JUST LIKE IN MY DREAM, YOU SWOOPED IN.
AND YOU DID ALL THAT RESEARCH ON MY DAD...
WHEN I HEARD THAT... I WAS PRETTY SHOCKED,
BUT...
WHEN YOU CAME UP WITH THAT INCREDIBLE STORY ABOUT 'MARRIAGE' AND ALL THAT,
EVEN PUTTING ON SUCH A COOL, IMPRESSIVE PERFOR-MANCE...
IT ACTUALLY CONVINCED MY DAD...
SFX KIPAAAAA...
IT MADE ME REALLY THINK
HOW RELIABLE YOU ARE, REI-CHAN!



At this point, Kiriyama still had no idea...

Later this technique was named the 'silent Kawamoto conference'.

Without having to exchange any words,

'Let's just roll with this!!'

'Allll right!!'

why they kept shutting him up...

the aunt and her niece understood each other immediately.

Chapter 105 END

REGARDING SHOGI IN THE SHOWA ERA

I became a pro shogi player just around the time when we crossed from the Showa Era into the Heisei Era. Just like how the rest of the world was changing, there were big changes in the shogi world, too. So what changed the most from the Showa Era to the Heiwa Era in shogi? To summarize it in one sentence, it went from being a 'community with a common destiny' to an 'interest community'.

A long time ago, back in the Showa Era shogi world, it was like a small village whether things went good or bad. It was like a family, 'the shogi family'. Even now we're still kind of a village society. It was like everyone was banded together by the same will of pursuing a common goal of developing the world of shogi, I feel. And it changed into more of a company organization. Though the will to win is one thing that hasn't changed. That goes without saying.

In the Showa Era, everything was crude. Everyone had lots of free time so they'd play around a lot but following that there were a lot of people that worked really hard for money. For example, there were lots of sort of mutual aid financing associations. I'm sure a lot of people won't understand that, but using a system where you all aid each other mutually by pooling your money every month and giving it to whomever was having money troubles at the time. The moment I turned pro at age 17, I was told half-forcefully to contribute to these mutual aid financing groups. (Of course, I'd get it back later. And with interest.)

The rules regarding matches were also largely unwritten, so they were decided by the atmosphere at any given time. The same went for the age restrictions at the Shoureikai. So if they felt bad for someone who worked seriously at the Shoureikai they would enact a 'warm heart' rule that gave them a half year extension. All that was decided on the spot. It was all incredibly perfunctory.

Rank-deciding matches are still the most important matches for a shogi player, but back then they were even more important (of course, with the money) and your class for the rank deciding matches was insanely important. There were these situations where the person who ranked 1st in Class C Group 2 would actually make comparatively less yearly salary than someone who got only 3 wins in Class B Group 2.

And then there was the 'Three-Stage League' which may have been a symbol of how harsh the shogi world was, which was also a system decided pretty carelessly. I was a member of the very first 'Three-Stage League'. So this was a system created just on the cusp of the change of the era. Shogi had grown too much and eating was becoming difficult. I won't go into the details here, but that was the kind of logic they used when they just suddenly came up with this system (or rather, revived it).

It was a magnanimous and carefree era. These shogi players who had no PCs, much less cell phones, somehow managed to gather at the Shogi Association building, study, and relax in their free time. They would talk up their esteemed senpais, stay for meals together, and all have a noisy good time.

The old society's way of doing things was quite authoritarian. People largely had the sense that the Meijin was 'the chosen one'. And that the Shogi World was the 'God's country that oriented around the Meijin.'--- Wait that's a different old story.

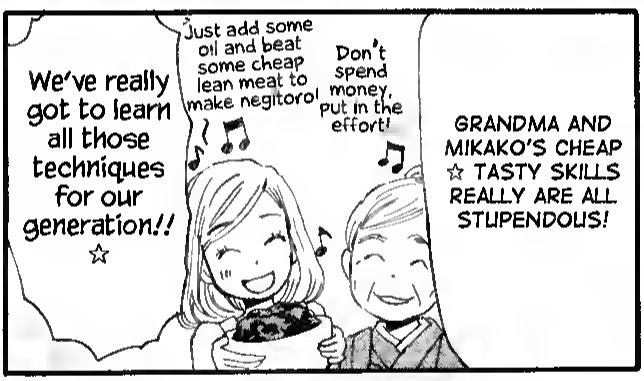
Chapter 106

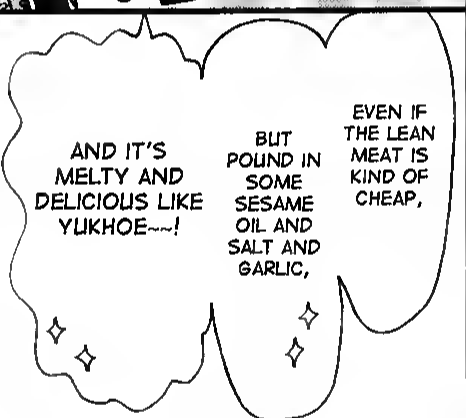
Fun Dinner

SFX: HUMMMMMM
Hmmm...
I KNOW IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
BUT I THINK THAT 'HAND-ROLLED SUSHI' WOULD BE GREAT FOR WHEN WE HAVE GUESTS OVER.
THE ADULTS CAN GRAB SOME SASHIMI AND DRINK ALCOHOL
AND THE KIDS CAN JUST BE FREE TO TAKE WHATEVER THEY WANT.
THEN
SO WE CAN PREPARE IT ALL BEFORE-HAND.
THERE'S NOTHING THAT HAS TO BE PUT OUT WHILE IT'S STILL HOT,
I THINK THAT WOULD BE REALLY NICE BECAUSE THEN WE WON'T NEED TO BE SCRAMBLING AROUND WHEN THE GUESTS COME.
YEAH. WE DO WANT TO RELAX AND TALK WITH THE GUESTS, RIGHT?
Momo, how much corn?
Uuumm... The whole thing!!
...all of it!

SFX: PAPAAAAN HAF HAF NYAA
ぱたーん
I can't stand it!!!
It's nice to see the dining table so busy, isn't it?
Tuna
Scallops
Squid
Salmon
Leek Strips
Rice
Nori (Seaweed sheets)
TUNA TAKUAN (PICKLED DAIKON)
SQUID NATTO
Chopped Lotus Root
IKURA (SALMON ROE)
SHRIMP AVOCADO MAYONNAISE
PERILLA
MYOGA (JAPANESE GINGER)
TUNA
Sweet Chicken-egg Omelette
Fish Sausage
SESAME SALT
TUNA WITH MAYO
YUKHOE (SEASONED RAW GROUND BEEF)
Soy Sauce
Corn
Hey, heyyyy!
Kimchi
Vegetable Sticks
Serving Dishes
Potato Salad
Is it okay if we start eating?!

Kawamoto Family
Hand-Rolled Sushi
Four Heavenly Kings
TUNA MAYO
TUNA-TAKU
SQUID NATTO
TUNA YUKHOE
BEER
Wrapping Kawamoto Family's famous Four Heavenly Kings in that Korean Nori
and then wash it down with that beer ☆, it's just heavenly!!
We have two types of nori, the regular kind and korean nori☆.
There's so much you'd really like to get a little of, isn't there?!


We've really got to learn all those techniques for our generation!! ☆
Just add some oil and beat some cheap lean meat to make negitoro!
Don't spend money, put in the effort!
GRANDMA AND MIKAKO'S CHEAP ☆ TASTY SKILLS REALLY ARE ALL STUPENDOUS!


AND IT'S MELTY AND DELICIOUS LIKE YUKHOE~~!
BUT POUND IN SOME SESAME OIL AND SALT AND GARLIC,
EVEN IF THE LEAN MEAT IS KIND OF CHEAP,

YOU'LL JUST 'WRAP THE INGREDIENTS IN ONLY LETTUCE' .. THAT KIND OF THING. ☆
RATHER THAN 'FILLING NORI WITH RICE' ——
You can barely fit into any of the dresses we have at the shop anymore.
SO...
—— SO, I'LL LEAVE THIS LETTUCE HERE FOR YOU, AKARI
SO EVERYONE SHOULD BE ABLE TO HAVE PLENTY.
WE MADE PLENTY OF THE TUNA YUKHOE,
SFX: PLENTYYYY

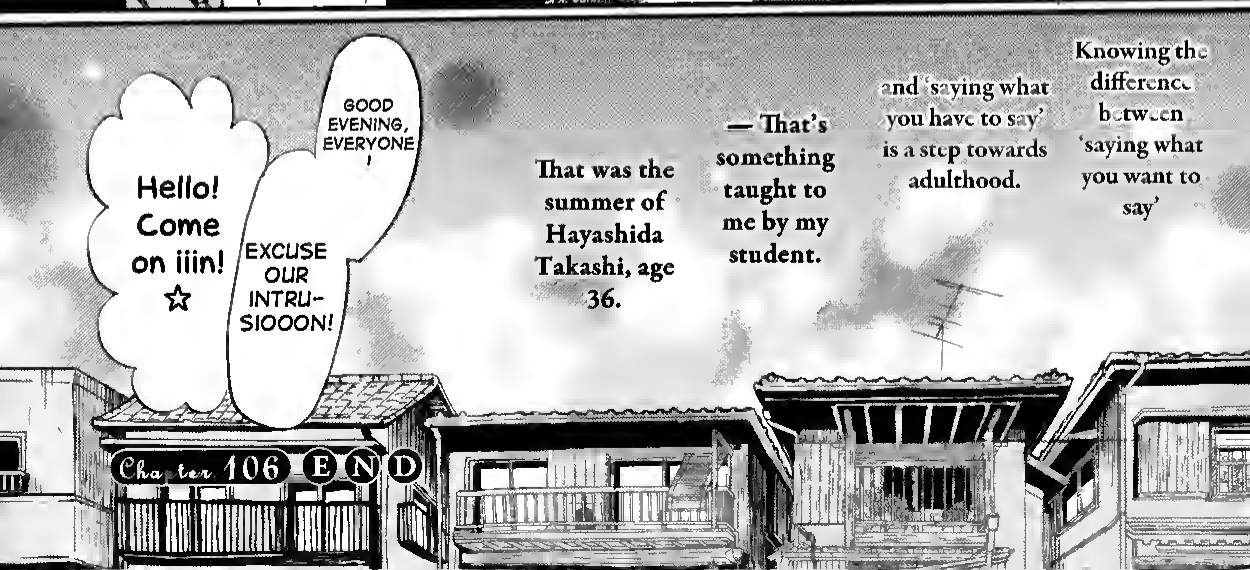
THEY SAY THAT IT BECOMES AN 'innocent perfect lineup!!!'
IF YOU WRAP SOME RICE IN IT, TOO...
HAVEN'T YOU HEARD? EVEN THOUGH 'wrapping in lettuce makes it zero-calories☆',
Waaaan! Auntiiiie! Please just leave it theeere! I.... I did the same crime after aaaaall...
You know how that actually works, don't you?
You know it doesn't, right?
MM.
TRUE.
WILL IT BE OKAY? REI-CHAN IS GONNA BE HERE TOO, AND ALL...
IT'S REALLY REASSURING TO HAVE YOU AROUND AND EVERYTHING, BUT I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOUR SHOP.
WHAT ABOUT YOUR SHOP?
— BUT AUNT MISAKI,
カチャ カチャ...

WON'T YOU FEEL GUILTY FOR HAVING TO CLOSE THE SHOP ON YOUR CUSTOMERS SO MUCH?
YES.
THAT'S ALL FINE
I LEFT ONE OF OUR REGULAR CUSTOMERS IN CHARGE OF THE SHOP.
A REGULAR CUSTOMER ?

SFX: KASHAKASHA KASHA KASHAH
WAAAH! PRESI-DENT?!
HUUUH?! MANAGING DIRECTOR ASHIZAWA ?!
Why ?!
Hun?
I'LL BE HAPPY TO MIX TOGETHER EVERYTHING YOU ASK FOR!
ORDER WHATEVER YOU'D LIKE!!
HEY, IT'S BEEN A WHILE!
Hello~~~! Welco~~me!
ALL EXPENSIVE LIQUOR
W-WE DIDN'T ORDER ANY OF THAT!! WHAT'S THE MARKET PRICE ON THAT RIGHT NOW?! I'M SCARED!!
Musk melon and chilled straw-berrie~s!
Have some frui~~~ts!
SFX: DONNNN SUSUSU~~~
HEY, HOLD ON! THAT'S A LI●SO! JUST HOW MUCH DOES A BOTTLE OF THAT COST?!
OKAY, WE'LL JUST GO AHEAD AND WRITE YOUR NAME ON I~~~T!
I JUST GOT A CALL STRAIGHT FROM THE PARENT COMPANY'S PRESIDENT AND LARGEST STOCK-HOLDER!!
IF WE DON'T GET THERE WITHIN 30 MINUTES, BOTH YOU AND ME WILL BE OUT OF A JOB!!
DIRECTOR?! WE HAVE THE RECEPTION PARTY TO GO TO!!
WE'RE LEAVING!! GET THE CAR READY!!
I miss you sooo sooo bad that I'm... shaking.....
You've got to come right over!
It's been so lo~~ng! I haven't heard from you at all recently~~~!
WELL, LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS
SFX: SUSUUU...
SFX: BAHH

SRX. ZURAHH
UOH! WHAT?!
WHAT ARE ALL THESE BLACK HIRED CARS?!
What kind of meeting is going on there?!
THAT'S CRAZY FOR THIS RECESSION!
ズラー
...
— THAT'S THE STATE OF THINGS.
YOU KNOW... THE DAYS I LEAVE THE SHOP TO HIM ACTUALLY HAVE... GOOD BUSINESS...
...GOOD.....? YOU TOLD ME YOU GOT AROUND 8 TIMES NORMAL...
A... ARE YOU REALLY SURE OF THIS?
LIKE, GOING TO THE KATAMOTO'S HOUSE TO HAVE A MEAL...?
SENSEI... WE'VE SAID IT 10 TIMES ALREADY.
IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE LIKE THAT YOU CAN'T LAUGH OFF KIRIYAMA-KUN SAYING HE'S 'THINKING TOO MUCH', YOU KNOW?
Sensei, it's fine. If old you, they said 'Sure, you've got to bring them!'.
Actually ...
They probably were laughing at me. I didn't realize. That's kind of a shock ...
ALSO... EVEN THOUGH IT WAS PRETTY URGENT,
WE DID SORTA TEAR THEIR DAD'S PRIVACY TO SHREDS.... YA KNOW...?
I MEAN THERE'S NO WAY THAT DOESN'T COME OFF AS DISTASTE-FUL
AH, THAT'S FINE, TOO.
'Oh, tell them we don't mind.'
'It was thanks to them that we figured out what we were up against and were able converse with him.'
SHE SAID.

SFX: PAHHH PEKAH GARAH
OKAY, WE'RE HERE!
WOAH.
ISN'T THAT A LIGHT THAT SENSES WHEN SOMEBODY'S AROUND?
OOH!
OH?
I GET IT. NOW THEY'LL HAVE A RECORD OF IT IF ANYBODY COMES BY THE HOUSE!!
HM? AND ISN'T THAT A CAMERA?
YEAH.
SOUNDS GOOD TO ME!
NOW IT'S WAY HARDER FOR BAD PEOPLE TO FIND A WAY INTO THE HOUSE!!
You know, you might be included in that group of 'bad peo...
GASH...
This is really what this house needed!!
SFX: GUHH...


Knowing the difference between 'saying what you want to say'
and 'saying what you have to say' is a step towards adulthood.
— That's something taught to me by my student.
That was the summer of Hayashida Takashi, age 36.
GOOD EVENING, EVERYONE!
EXCUSE OUR INTRU-SIOOON!
Hello! Come on iiin! ☆
Chapter 106 END

Chapter 107

Osaka ①

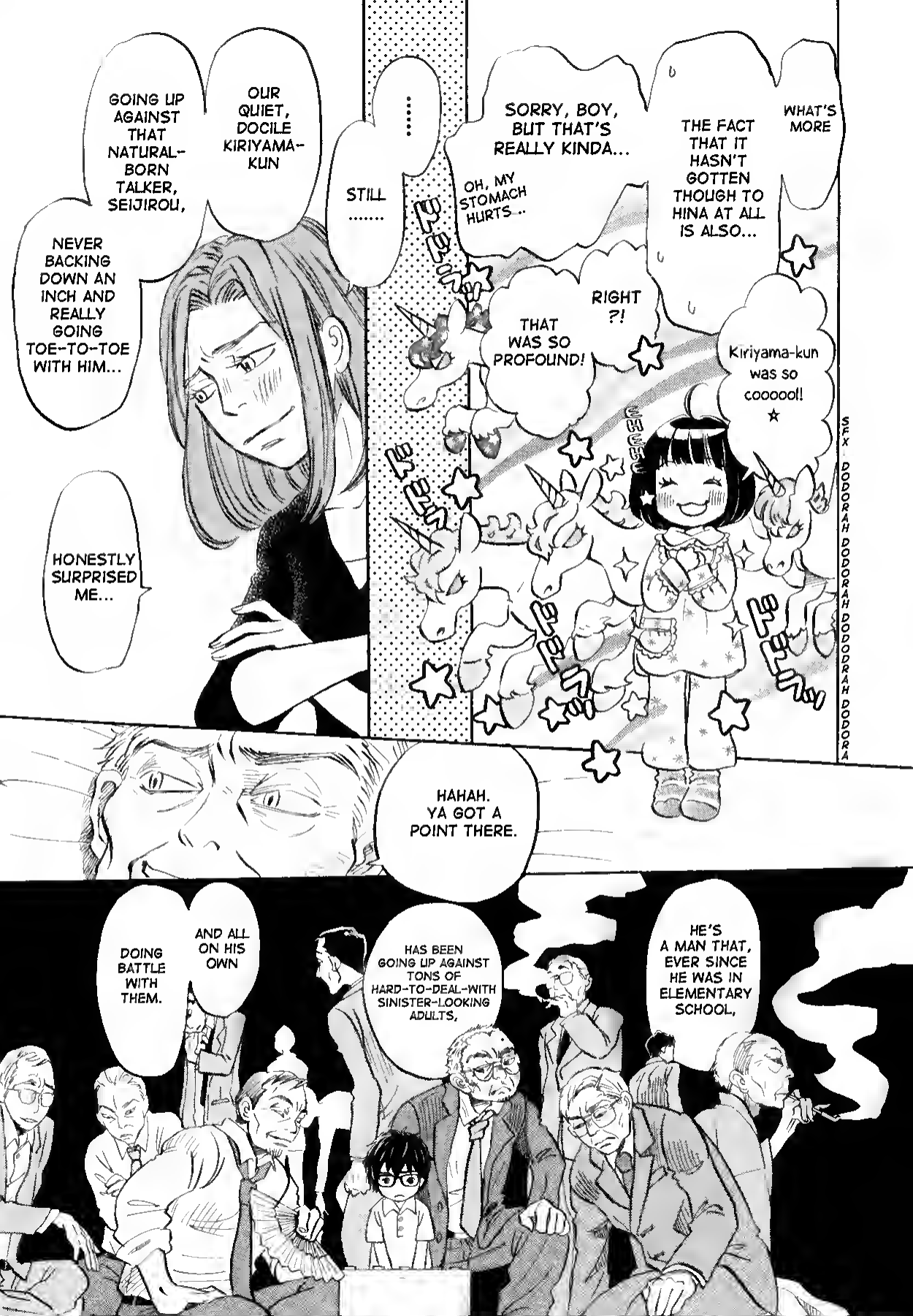
3月のライオン

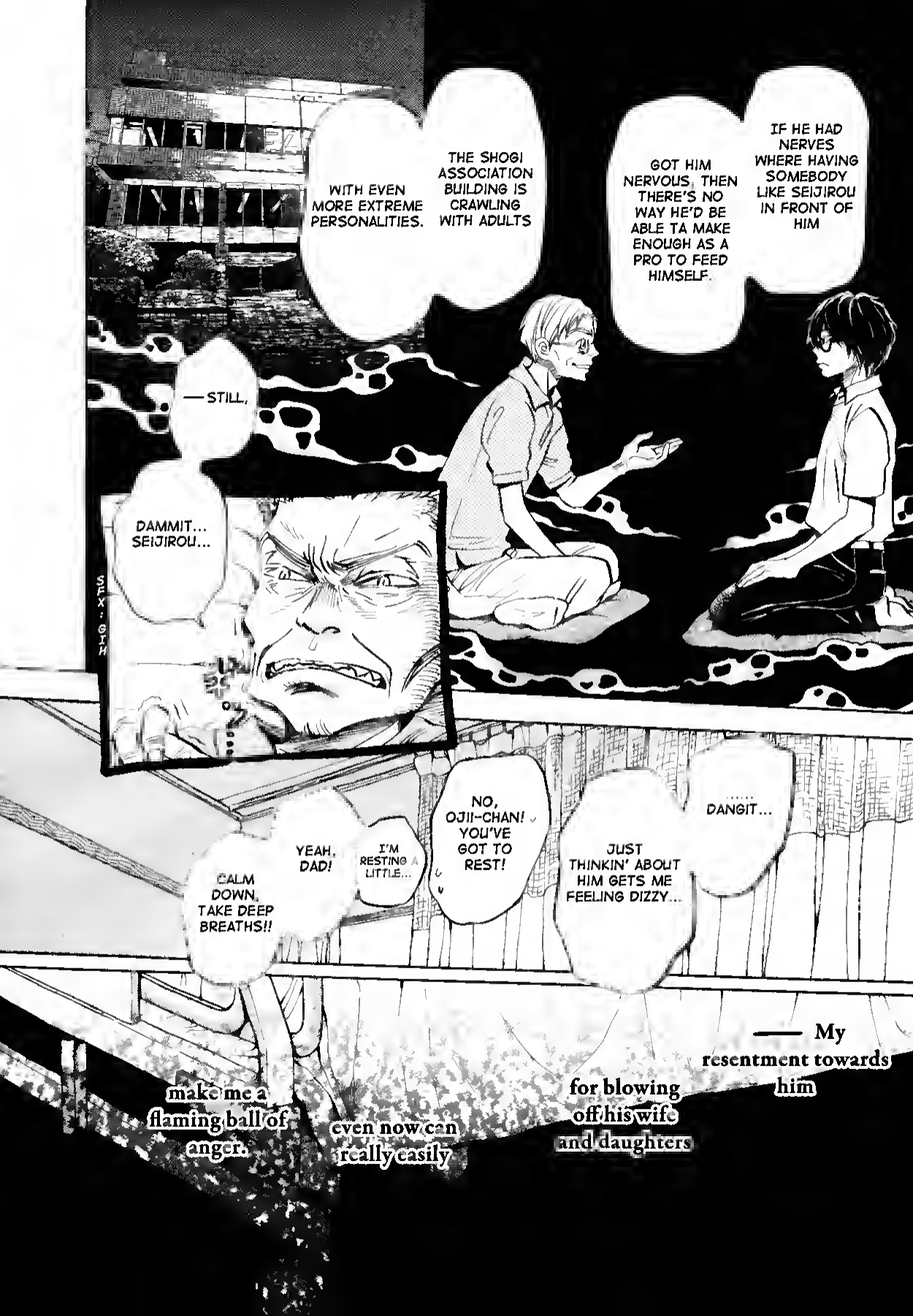
March comes in like a lion

Chica Umino

O-
OJII-CHAN?
OJII-CHAN!
HEY.....
DAD?

SFX. KAHAHHH KUWAHH
GE HAHHH!
NBAHH AAAAA HHH!
YOU WHITED OUT FOR A SECOND THERE!
I THINK
Yes, yes.
MAR-RIAGE ?!!
BUT THAT'S BEYOND SUDDEN !
THAT'S THE BOY ALL RIGHT ...
I under-stand... Seriously !!
Mhm. Mhm. Definitely.
AH! THAT WAS A HELL OF A SURPRISE !!
Completely understandable...
YES...
completely stunned .....
We were also ...
YES...
I THOUGHT I WAS GONNA BE DRAWN UP TA HEAVEN!!
MY BLOOD PRESSURE THAT HAD STARTED TA RISE WENT BACK DOWN!! ALL OF THE SUDDEN IT JUST SHOT DOWN!!
NO, YA GOT IT ALL WRONG. SOMEWHERE ALONG THE LINE THAT SEIJIROU BASTARD MUST'VE DECIDED HE WOULDN' BE SATISFIED TILL HE DRAGGED ME DOWN TA HELL.
SU TE KI


OUR QUIET, DOCILE KIRIYAMA-KUN
GOING UP AGAINST THAT NATURAL-BORN TALKER, SEIJIROU,
NEVER BACKING DOWN AN INCH AND REALLY GOING TOE-TO-TOE WITH HIM...
HONESTLY SURPRISED ME...
.....
STILL .....
SORRY, BOY, BUT THAT'S REALLY KINDA...
OH, MY STOMACH HURTS..
THE FACT THAT IT HASN'T GOTTEN THOUGH TO HINA AT ALL IS ALSO...
WHAT'S MORE
THAT WAS SO PROFOUND!
RIGHT ?!
Kiriyama-kun was so cooooo!!
SEX DODORAH DODORAH DODORAH DODORA
HAHAH. YA GOT A POINT THERE.
HE'S A MAN THAT, EVER SINCE HE WAS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL,
HAS BEEN GOING UP AGAINST TONS OF HARD-TO-DEAL-WITH SINISTER-LOOKING ADULTS,
AND ALL ON HIS OWN
DOING BATTLE WITH THEM.


IF HE HAD NERVES WHERE HAVING SOMEBODY LIKE SEIJIROU IN FRONT OF HIM
GOT HIM NERVOUS, THEN THERE'S NO WAY HE'D BE ABLE TA MAKE ENOUGH AS A PRO TO FEED HIMSELF.
THE SHOGI ASSOCIATION BUILDING IS CRAWLING WITH ADULTS
WITH EVEN MORE EXTREME PERSONALITIES.
—STILL,
DAMMIT... SEIJIROU...
SEX: GIH
.....DANGIT...
JUST THINKIN' ABOUT HIM GETS ME FEELING DIZZY...
NO, OJII-CHAN! YOU'VE GOT TO REST!
I'M RESTING A LITTLE...
YEAH, DAD!
CALM DOWN. TAKE DEEP BREATHS!!
—— My resentment towards him
for blowing off his wife and daughters
even now can really easily
make me a flaming ball of anger.

So it really was good the boy was there.
From the side-lines ya might think,
'Huh? That seems pretty strange.'
But he makes you remember the rules outside all this.
'Seijirou only thought about himself.'
'He manipulates those around him so they end up only thinking about him, too.'
'Then at some point he's the center of everyone's world.'
It's that scenario that we have to avoid.
'And then, everyone ends up living thoroughly miserable lives.'
That endpoint, that 'miserable life' is what he wants.
I GOTTA GET OVER THIS ARRHYTHMIA OR WHATEVER AND GET OUT OF THIS HOSPITAL.
THE MOST IMPORTANT THING FOR ME TO DO NOW
I'LL GET BACK HOME AND OPEN THE STORE.
OJII-CHAN...
DAD...

NO, WE'RE OKAY.
TODAY I'M PRETTY SURE HE'S....
AUHUH
Hey-
I can't laugh because that actually sounds like something he would say!
—OTHER-WISE KIRIYAMA-KUN
THAT'S RIGHT. WE NEED YOU BACKS SOON, DAD.
MIGHT SHOW UP WITH HIS BAGS SAYING 'I'M WORRIED ABOUT HINA-CHAN SO I'M MOVING IN HERE!!'
SFX KIRIH (SHARP)
SPEAKIN 'A WHICH, WHAT'S HE DOING TODAY?
DON'T TELL ME... HE'S ALREADY COME TO THE HOUSE?!
SFX PATA
WELL...
SFX PA
HEY, DON'T MAKE US CATCH IT, TOO, WOULD YOU?!
I'VE GOT A MATCH AGAINST SHIMADA TOMORROW!
WHA-WHA--T?
CAUGHT A SUMMER COLD?

SFX: BATA BATA BATA BATAH (FANNING)
SFX: BANN
SO I'D SAY I'M SAFE.
THEY SAY ONLY IDIOTS CATCH SUMMER COLDS,
EXCUSE ME.
NO, I DON'T HAVE A COLD.
SO YOU CAN'T CATCH ANYTHING.
SFX: BACHIRI

SFX: BASHIH
Despite his frail appearance, he stands firmly against attack.
.....
WHICH REMINDS ME,
YOU WERE OUT OF BREATH WHEN YOU CAME IN HERE TODAY, WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?
DID YOU COME INTO TOWN THIS MORNING?
Even knowing that this is the mutual attack I'm best at
UH, YES.
WHAT TIME DID YOU GET YOUR SHINKAN-SEN?
UH, YES, THE NOZOMI TRAIN AT 6 O'CLOCK
HUH?! 6 O'CLOCK?!
WHY DIDN'T YOU GET AN EARLIER ONE?
I'm thankful, but
THIS IS THE PRELIMINARIES OF THE GYOKUSHOU CHAMPIONSHIP. THEY PAY FOR YOUR TRAVEL AND LODGING EXPENSES, DON'T YOU KNOW?
YOU'D BE ABLE TO REST AND CONCENTRATE FOR THE MATCH THAT WAY,
WOULDN'T YOU?
I'm also getting irritated.
-Though maybe I'm being selfish.

SFX: BATA BATA BATA BATA NECHI NECHI (INSISTENT) KUDO KUDO (ON AND ON) NECHI NECHI (INSISTENT)
UUGH. HANG IN THERE, KIRIYAMA 6-DAN...
G-Good luck, Kiriyama 6-dan
KIRIYAMA-KUN
THERE GOES RAIDOU-SAN'S PICKING ON KIDS HE LIKES AGAIN
aah...
IS THAT IT?
CAUSE YOU CAN DO ALL THAT AND STILL START THE MATCH EASY ☆, THAT SORTA THING?
AND WANNA JUST ZOOM ONTO THE SHINKANSEN IN THE MORNING
LIKE YOU WANT TO WAKE UP EARLY SINCE YOU'RE STILL IN YOUR TEENS
SO, WHY THEN? JUST YOUR PRIDE, BEING SO YOUNG?
UH.
ER...
NO....
LIKE 'I CAN DO THAT NO SWEAT',
ネチ ネチ
クド クド
バ バ バ バ バ
THAT RAIDOU-SAN JUST LOVES YOUNGSTERS WITH TALENT.
HE GETS SO INTERESTED IN THEM THAT HE GETS CLINGY...
THOUGH THE INTEREST WAS TOTALLY ONE-SIDED ON RAIDOU-SAN'S PART.
HE USED TO CATCH SOUYA-SAN ALL THE TIME AND GET INSISTENT WITH HIM.
*All concentration is on the board
.....
Can't hear...
Hey, you in there?
Hey.
What do you do on your days off?
Do you have any friends? You don't look like you do. Right?
Do your best, Kiriyama-kun.....
Yeah .....
You're gonna have another one disliking you, Raidou-san.....
SFX: BATA BATA JIIIII... (STARE)

SFX PASHIH
YA KNOW,
IT'S PRETTY BORING IF I'M THE ONLY ONE TALKING.
HMM...
Honestly, well,
because I'm getting irritated .....
HOW BOLLLLT...
THAT!
7-6 Fu.....
He didn't defend against the fu and he opened up his kaku's path.
SFX PATA PATA
we seem to keep banging into each other...
Hm hm hmmmm

Even though he coolly entered a formation his opponent is skilled with,
he's being extremely careful and extremely conscientious.
MHM. MHM.
HMPH
CORRECT.
SFX SDH

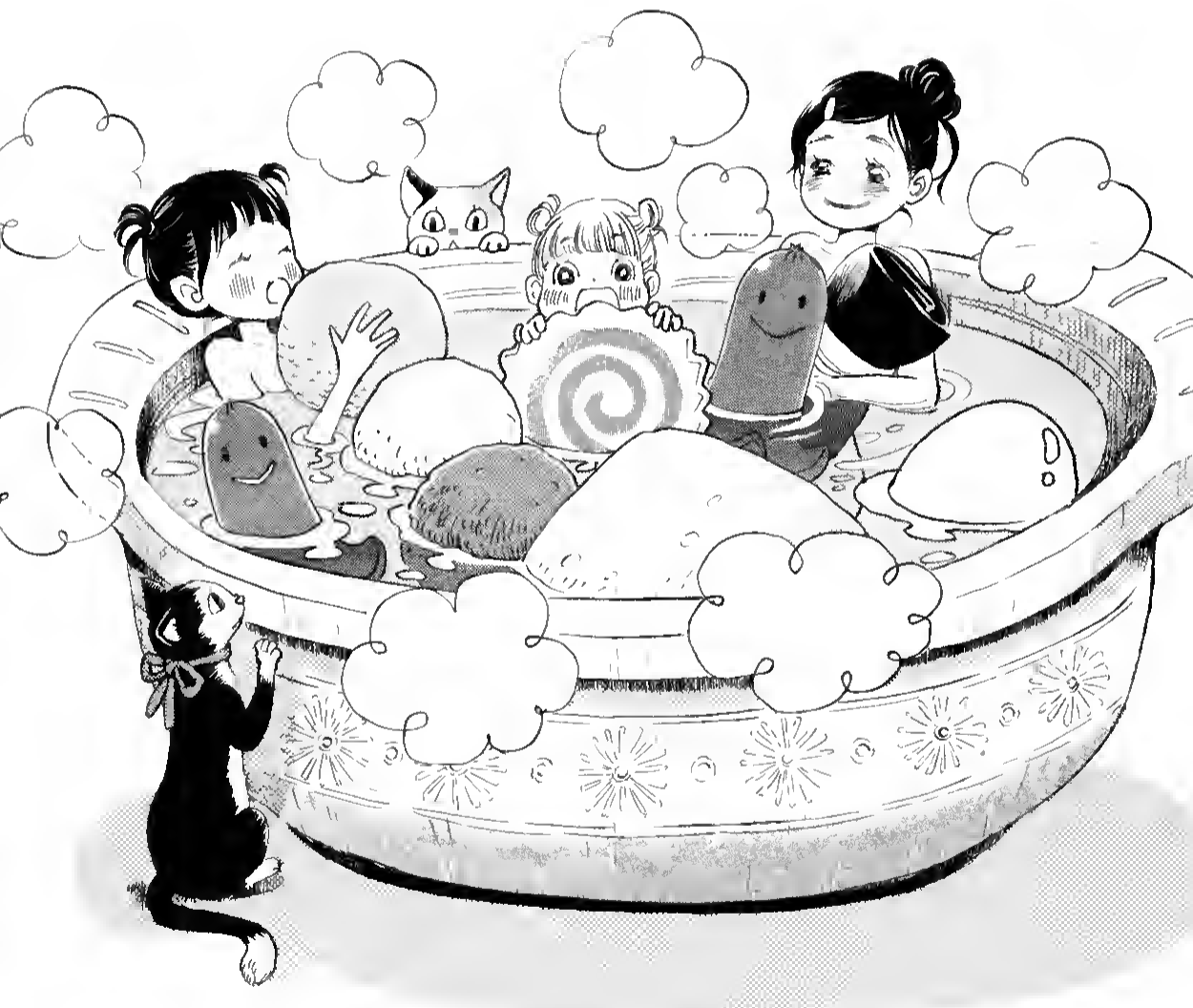
— Guys with that sorta inconsistency annoy me,

— but I've gotta say, they're interesting.

Chapter 107 END

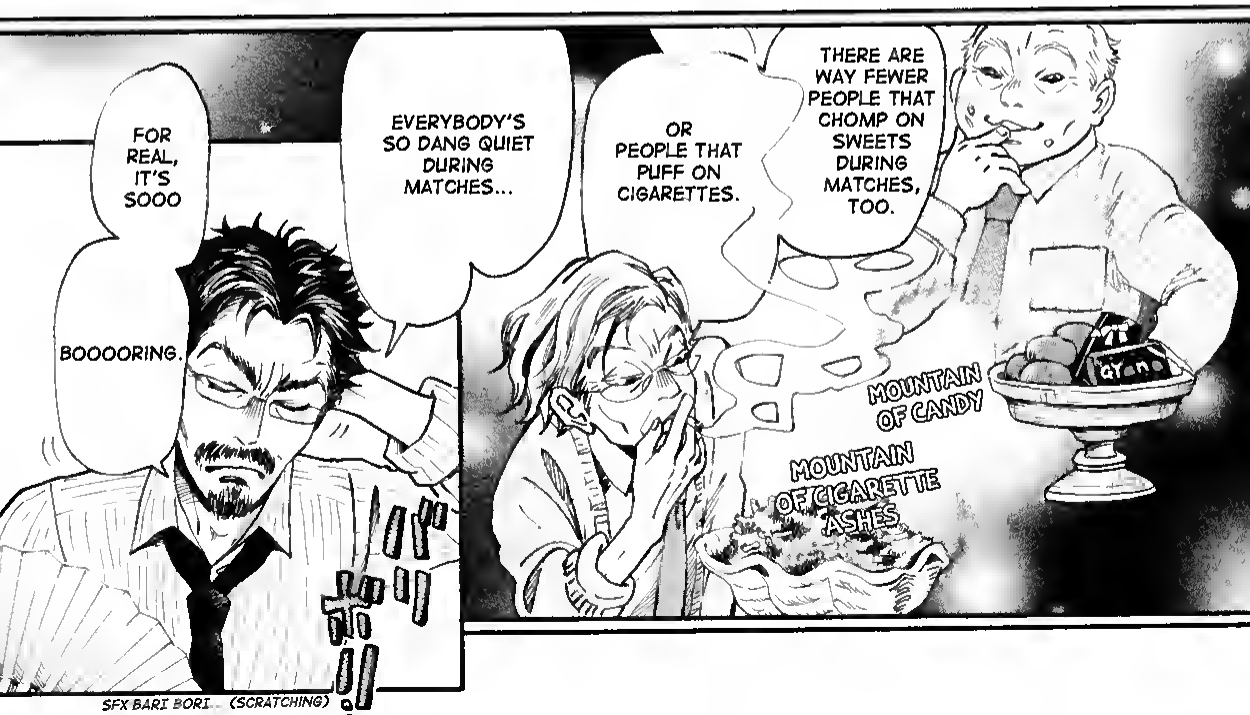
Chapter 108

Osaka ②



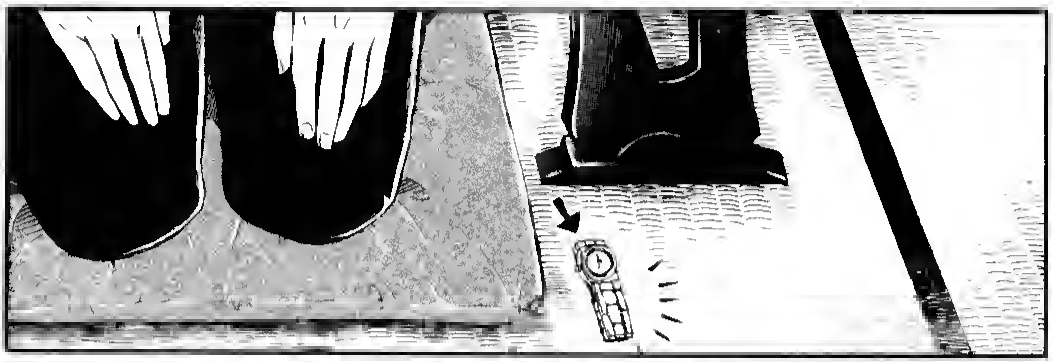
—— ANYHOW, YA KNOW...
ずぼらや
かに
関西将棋会館
Kansai Shogi Association
IT'S WAY TOO QUIET IN HERE AS OF LATE.
IN THE OLD DAYS, EVERYBODY'D TALK AS THEY PLAYED...
THERE REALLY AIN'T ANY RULE SAYING YOU CAN'T TALK WHEN YOU'RE PLAYING.
MUU...

SFX JIIIIIHHHH (STARE) PATA PATA
AH.
YES.
HUH?
UM...
STILL NO RESPONSE ...?
HEY, ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING TO ME?
Hmph
じーっ
パタ
パタ


FOR REAL, IT'S SOOO
BOOOORING.
EVERYBODY'S SO DANG QUIET DURING MATCHES...
OR PEOPLE THAT PUFF ON CIGARETTES.
THERE ARE WAY FEWER PEOPLE THAT CHOMP ON SWEETS DURING MATCHES, TOO.
MOUNTAIN OF CANDY
MOUNTAIN OF CIGARETTE ASHES
SFX BARI BORI... (SCRATCHING)

RIGHT NOW,
THE ONLY ONES THAT TALK DURING MATCHES BESIDES ME
ARE OLD MAN YANAGIHARA,
KUMA-KURA...
AND...
IT'S NOT TOO OFTEN, BUT
NAMERI-KAWA, I GUESS.
SFX KOKKURI (NOD) PACHIH
HEY, HOLD ON!!
WHAT WAS THAT, 'MHM'?!!
YOU REALLY AREN'T LISTENING, ARE YOU?!
AH, S-SORRY.
PEOPLE THAT JUST IGNORE WHAT THEIR SENIORS IN THEIR FIELD SAY WILL NEVER GROW!!
SFX KUWAHHH KISSHAAAA

SFX GIRIGIRIGIRIGIRI
...OR RATHER THAT'S WHAT I'D LIKE TO SAY BUT BECAUSE OF THAT SHITTY BRAT, I CAN'T!!
I'VE GOTTA PRY THAT MEIJIN TITLE BACK FROM HIM SOON SO I CAN STATE THAT WITHOUT ANY RESERVE!!
HEY, RAIDOU!!
PIPE DOWN! CAN'T YOU PLAY JUST A TEENSY BIT QUIETER?!
YOU'RE RUINING OTHER PEOPLE'S CONCEN-TRATION!
Walked off with the title of Meijin
AH, DAMMIT!!
DAAAAH
GOD DAMMIT!!
HAAAH
Geez. Nobody's noisier than that guuy.
SFX PATA PATA
SFX PATA
SFX CHIRA (GLANCE)
SFX HARA HARA (DISCOMFORT) HARA HARA (DISCOMFORT)
RAIDOU-SAN REALLY CARE A LOT ABOUT YOUNG PLAYERS, DOESN'T HE?
BUT WHEN HE GETS TOO SELF-CONSCIOUS ABOUT IT, HE GETS OVERLY FIRED UP
BECAUSE HIS MIND COMES UP WITH THESE UNREALISTIC ILLUSIONS AND THINGS...
I'm worried.
Mmm



SEX JIHIH STAARES
HEY, KIRIYAMA.
…
じー——っ……
YOU WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO BE...

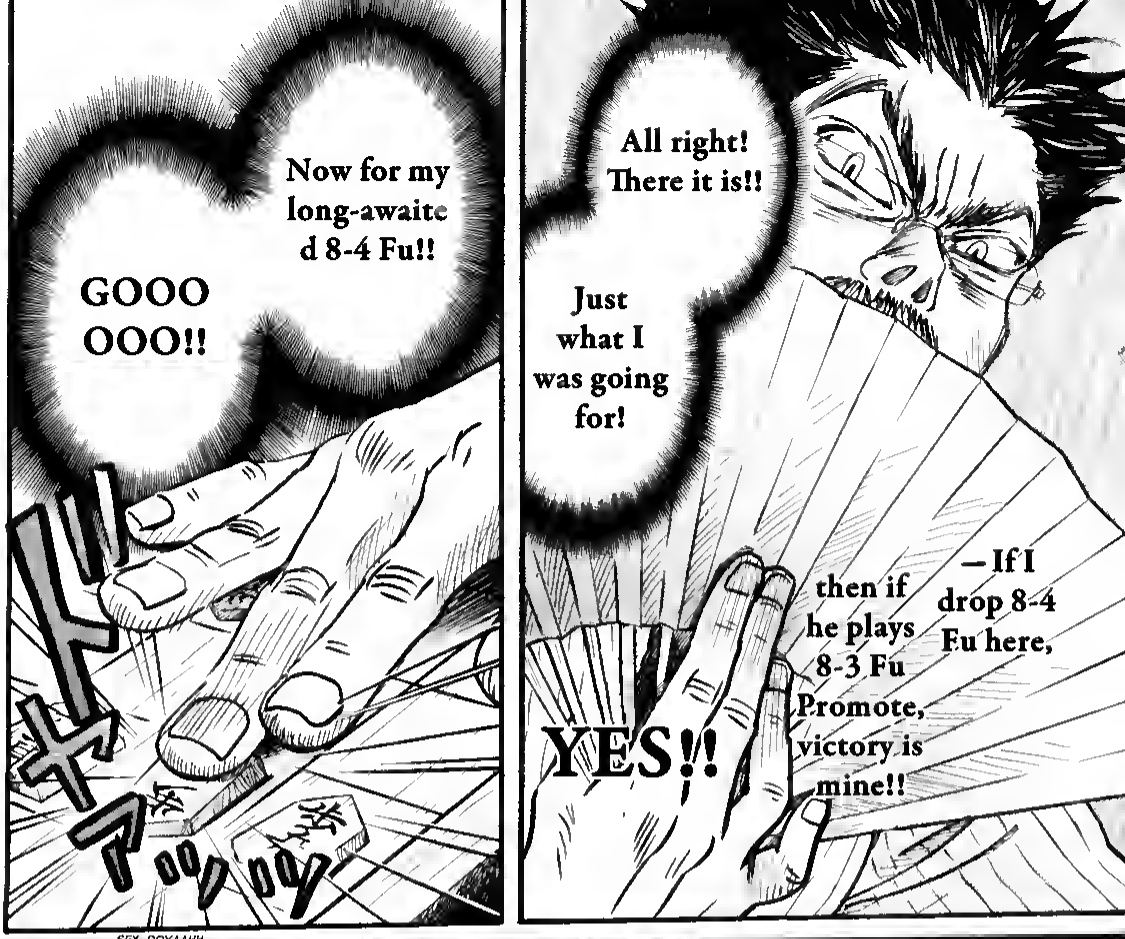
SEX GEU CELES
ぎっ……
IN A HURRY TO GET TODAY'S MATCH OVER WITH TO GET BACK TO TOKYO SOON, WOULD YOU?

OH, SORRY, SORRY.
Mhm. Mhm.
OF COURSE NOT, NOT WHEN YOU'RE SITTING RIGHT IN FRONT OF AN ESTEEMED SENPAI, RIGHT?
OF COURSE YOU WOULDN'T BE THINKING ABOUT THE TIME OF YOUR SHINKANSEN HOME
Mhm. Mhm.
WHEN YOU HAVE SUCH AN ESTEEMED SENPAI RIGHT HERE?
YOU COULDN'T POSSIBLY BE THINKING ABOUT ANYTHING THAT OUTRAGEOUS, RIGHT...? ☆
YOU'LL BE STAYING HERE OVERNIGHT TONIGHT, OF COURSE?
合宿

RIGHT?
SFX: PASHITTH
'COME AT ME! WHY DON'T YOU COME TAKE MY SIDE FU?!'
IT'S LIKE HE'S SAYING 'THERE'S NO WAY THAT FU CAN DEFEND AGAINST THIS.'
Ooh!
Hoho
SFX: PASHIH
SFX: PASHITTH

SFX NITAAH (SMILE)
NIAAH
YES, YES.
THAT'S THE SPIRIT!
IN THAT CASE,
DAANNN

HE DOESN'T WANT TO LOSE TO THEM!
BUT ON TOP OF THAT,
HE REALLY LOVES THE YOUNG ONES
THAT KID SURE IS YOUNG...
TO USE AGAINST KIRIYAMA.
HE WAS EVEN ABLE TO COME UP WITH A SOLID PLAN
THAT RAIDOU KIRYUU REALLY IS SOMETHING !!
WHOA!
PLEASE GET A GRIP, RAIDOU-SAN!!
It's like, the life force of Mother Earth...
But that, that is the scenery of my childhood!!
Ain't that somethin'?
It still erupts a lot and when it does black smoke and stuff rises around 4,000 meters, ya know.
You ever been? It's a nice place. It's got beautiful Sakurajima standing right in front of you like a smack in the face.
I was born in Kagoshima.
Though right now, I pretty much live here.
BUT WITH HE GETS THIS CHEERY
IT'S BEEN OVER 10 MINUTES SINCE KIRIYAMA'S CHIMED IN AT ALL!!
HE TALKS MORE THAN EVER...
You'll wanna remember that!
but if you get down on your stomach in front of the cauliflower field you can get a picture of the two of them next to each other!!
By the way, the 'beloved dog Kaya' statue outside the town hall building is a bit aways from Saigou-don's bronze statue,
You know the name of the dog that's next to the Saigou-don statue in the mountains of Ueno? It's 'Tsun'!!
Speaking of statues of Saigou-don, the one in Ueno is famous, but there's of course one in the town he's from, Kagoshima.
'Walk the righteous path, pushing for sincerity.' The soldier of fortune that made it through the end of the Edo period!!
And speaking of Kagoshima, Saigou-don!!
SFX: PASHI
Yes, yes!! Those two are together forever!!
*Crying
SFX: KASHA KASHA
SFX: PERA PERA (TALKING) PASHI
SFX: PERA PERA (TALKING)


Now for my long-awaite d 8-4 Fu!!
GOOO OOO!!
ドヤァァァ
All right! There it is!!
Just what I was going for!
—If I drop 8-4 Fu here,
then if he plays 8-3 Fu Promote, victory is mine!!
YES!!

SFX: DOYAAHH

SFX: PETOH

4-8 Uma
Same Gyoku
9-2 Kin.....
I TOOOLD YOU,
YOU'RE TALKING TOO MUCH!
...HUUUH? Wait, what...?
My ryuu... is mated?
You got too worked up...

SFX. CHIRA... (GLANCE)
KIRIYAMA.
JUST NOW,
YOU THOUGHT 'I MIGHT BE ABLE TO MAKE THE 18:50', DIDN'T YOU?
No, I didn't think that.
Not one bit.
SFX GOGOGOGO GOGOGOGO ZAHH
I'm not letting you go...
From this point, I'm gonna stick this game out, and keep it going to its last breath.
There's no way in hell I'll even let you get the 21:50 Nozomi, the last train into Tokyo...
UM,
I REALLY WISH YOU WOULDN'T...
WHY? YOU CAN JUST STAY HERE FOR THE NIGHT! WHADDA YA WANNA GET HOME SO BAD FOR?
I REALLY NEED TO GET HOME.
'OH, I WANNA GO HOME!'!! WHAT ARE YOU, IN KINDER-GARTEN?!!
YOU CAN FORGET ABOUT ME SAYING 'I'VE LOST.' NOT UNTIL I'VE GOT THAT KIN AT THE HEAD OF MY KING WILL I SAY IT!!
UH, THAT SEEMS KINDA NOT NORMAL.
I MEAN, IT WAS YOUR OWN FAULT YOU OVERLOOKED 4-8 UMA!!
将棋会館

THERE'S A GUY STALKING MY FIANCE!!
YOU SHITTY LITTLE BRAAAT!
HOW CAN I LIVE WITH MYSELF IF SOMETHING HAPPENS TO HER WHILE I'M DOING THIS?!
WHAT IN THIS WORLD COULD BE MORE IMPORTANT THAN A MATCH?! WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO?!!
NO, BEFORE THAT.
A STALKER !!
.....HM?
HOLD ON A SECOND, WHAT DID YOU SAY?
LIKE I SAID, MY FIANCE–
ガタン
DO
SFX: GATAAANNN

Call an ambulance!!
Oh dear!! Get a stretcher!!
Get him to the first-aid center, fast!!
WAHH
OH NO!! SHIMADA 8-DAN FELL OVER ALL OF A SUDDEN!!
A-ARE YOU OKAY, SHIMADA 8-DAN?!!
WAAA
WAA
Uh... No, that won't be necessary... I'm all right...
.....
COME ON, LET'S CONTINUE!
OKAY,
SFX GA RU RU
ANYBODY COULD LOOK AT THIS BOARD AND TELL YOU YOU'RE MATED!!
I MEAN, COME ON, YOU'RE ALREADY MATED, RIGHT?!!
NEVER MIND THAT. JUST CONTINUE!! FAST!! PLEASE MAKE YOUR MOVE!!
COME ON, I WANT THE DETAILS ON THIS!!
FIANCE?!! —YOU... WHEN DID THIS HAPPEN?!!
— YUP, NO WAY I'M LETTING YOU LEAVE!!
I WON'T! NO WAY IN HELL AM I SAYING THAT UNTIL YOU FILL ME IN!!
PLEASE, JUST SAY THE LAST WORDS!!
C'mooon!

Chapter 108 END

Chapter. 109

Osaka ③

新大阪駅 SHIN-ŌSAKA STATION
HUHHH
HUOOOOOOOHHH!
THE PLATFORM DOOR IS CLOSING.
PLEASE STAND BACK.
IIGHH!
SFX: URURURURURURURURURUR GOHH
HEY, SHINKANSEN, WAIIIIT!!
WAAA

I...
I... MADE... IT...
I'M FINALLY GETTING HOME...
SFX: GATANN TOTONN
SFX: PAAAAN

NOW I SHOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE IT TO TOKYO BY 24:00.
GOOD...
I THOUGHT FOR A MINUTE THERE
I MIGHT END UP HAVING TO SLEEP OVER.
戻る
新大阪～東京
Until you tell me the entire story
I will not admit defeat
FUHAHA
HAHAHA
SERIOUSLY WHAT'S WITH THAT GUY?
I MEAN...
HA HA HA HA
角行
桂馬
香車
歩兵
王将
金将

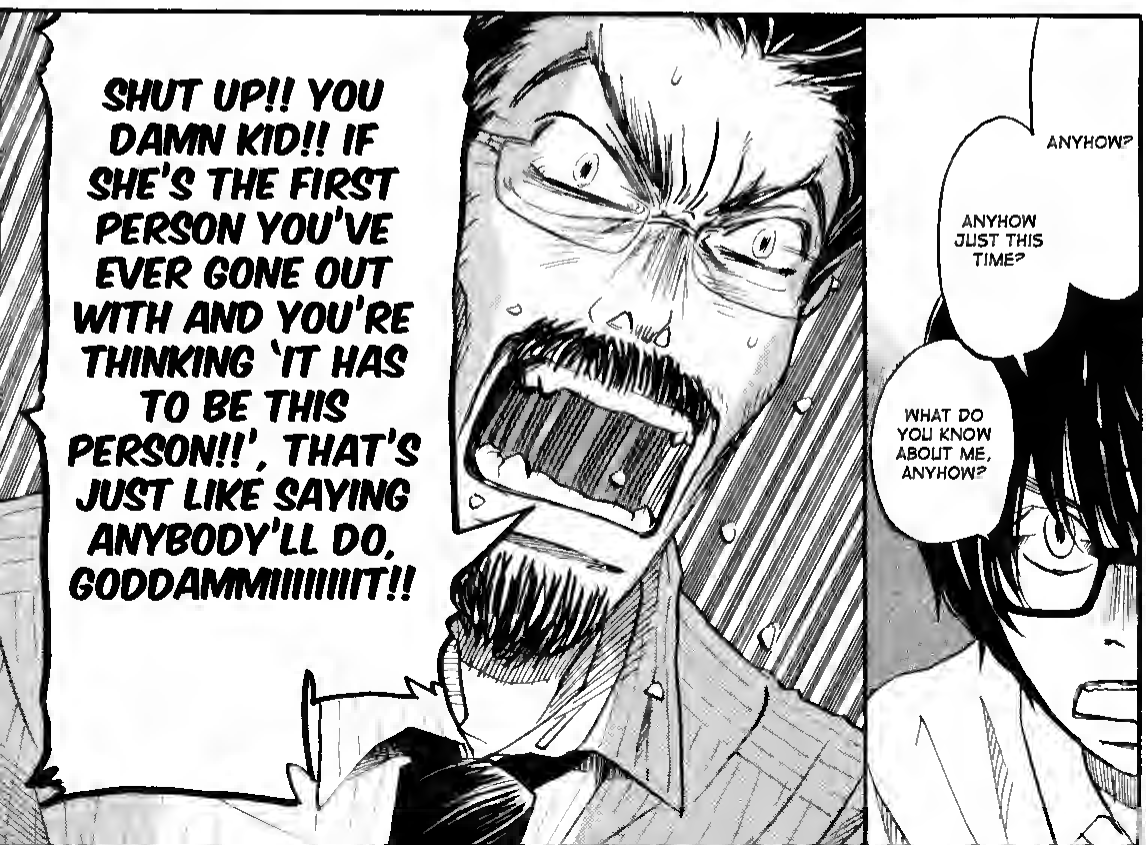
— 2 hours earlier.
— HOW DID IT END UP LIKE THIS?
And?
What kind of woman is she?
ずぼら
ずいっ
SFX: ZUTHH

HUH?
How long have you been going out together?
Which one of you proposed your engagement?
HUH?
Was it her? You?
U-UM...

THE ONLY MOVE YOU HAVE HERE IS 4-7 FU, RIGHT?
CAN'T YOU JUST PLAY?
DOES IT REALLY MATTER?
I SEE... SO YOU WERE THE ONE THAT PROPOSED?
NO... SHE 'MADE YOU SAY IT', RIGHT?
—SHE'S DECISIVELY OLDER THAN YOU.
BY QUITE A BIT I'D SAY..
5... NO, B... YEARS OLDER?
IN THAT CASE SHE'S JUST UNDER 30...
SO BASICALLY,
SHE SAID SOMETHING LIKE 'If you won't marry me, I just might leave you.' or 'I get nervous so I can't go on dates.' RIGHT?
Kiriyama-kuーーn came again today
Hui
I've been hearing all sorts of things at the company recently
THAT'S IT, ISN'T IT?!!
ISN'T THAT RIGHT?!
ばしっっ
4-7 FU
SFX: FUSHIHH BASHI!!HH
—... NO.
NO?! WHAT PART WAS WRONG? TELL ME!
NO ONE MADE ME SAY ANYTHING.
I SAID IT OF MY OWN WILL.
2-9 HI
SFX: FASHIH

SFX GIRIGIRIGIRIGIRI
HO-
HO~~~H
SO YOU WERE THE ONE THAT DECIDED YOU WOULD 'GET MARRIED', DID YOU?
*Cannot face the board (reality)
HMHM.
ギリギリギリギリ
...WELL...
I KNEW THAT.
-THEN, WHAT WAS THE LEAD UP TO THAT CONVER-SATION?
YOU'RE STILL ONLY 19 YEARS OLD, AREN'T YOU?
ISN'T THAT A BIT TOO EARLY?
I MEAN, HAVE YOU EVEN EVER DATED A WOMAN BEFORE?
Huh? What?
What's gong on?
Apparently Kiriyama's done with being single...
Apparently Raidou-san suddenly cut way too far into the heart of things!!
Awawa...
SFX HARA HARA (SUSPENSE)
GETTING IN A TIZZY ABOUT THE FIRST WOMAN YOU'VE GONE OUT WITH
MAY BE OKAY, BUT IF YOU AREN'T CAREFUL ABOUT MARRIAGE YOU CAN BE SURE YOU'LL REGRET IT LATER!!
ASSUMPTION
Whatever, just play, please!
Also those kinds of specula-tions are really rude!
Don't you get it, Kiriyama?!

THIS IS YOUR SENPAI TALKING OUT OF CON-CERN!!
NOT IN SHOGI... IN 'LIFE'!
WHY DON'T YOU LOOK AT THIS FROM MORE OF A 'GLOBAL' VIEW?
ONCE WOMEN GET MARRIES, THEY CAN'T 'CHANGE' THAT EASILY, YOU KNOW?!
'CHANGE'? WHAT DOES THAT EVEN MEAN?
I CAN'T SAY I KNOW.
HAH!! YEAH, RIGHT! ANYHOW, I'M JUST TALKING ABOUT THIS TIME. THAT'S ALL!!
UNIVERSA


ANYHOW?
ANYHOW JUST THIS TIME?
WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT ME, ANYHOW?
SHUT UP!! YOU DAMN KID!! IF SHE'S THE FIRST PERSON YOU'VE EVER GONE OUT WITH AND YOU'RE THINKING 'IT HAS TO BE THIS PERSON!!', THAT'S JUST LIKE SAYING ANYBODY'LL DO, GODDAMMIIIIIIIT!!

SFX: KUWAHH KAH
LISTEN TO ME, KIRI-YAMA...
THINK VE~~RY CAREFULLY.
ONCE YOU GET MARRIED... YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO HANG OUT AND DO WHAT YOU WANT ANYMORE, DON'T YOU KNOW THAT?!
WHEN A KIND OF... —NO, A VERY CUTE GIRLS GETS CLOSE TO YOU, WHAT DO YOU DO?
FOR EXAMPLE... JUST THINK ABOUT IT!!
oh, you're late!
Raidou-san, I thought you were never gonna get here!
—LET ALONE TRIPS TO ONSENS AND STUFF LIKE THAT
REQUIRE THESE GRAND STRATEGIES IF YOU WANNA DO THEM!!
DOING STUFF LIKE TAKING LEISURELY DRIVES TOGETHER
ONCE YOU'VE GOTTEN MARRIED
—NO, IF YOU'RE ABLE TO DO THAT,
THE TWO OF YOU SHOP AND EAT TOGETHER ...
Oh, what's the harm?
...We're happy, aren't we?
Hey... Don't cling so much.
AND THEN WHEN YOU START FEELING GOOD AROUND THAT GIRL...

'Sorry, my little sister has to stay over on short notice.' AND THINGS LIKE THAT WHICH ARE AROUND 89% MADE UP STORIES, YA KNOW?!
'CAUSE YOU KNOW, THERE ARE WOMEN OUT THERE THAT'LL SAY, 'My mother is sick' OR
NO, NO, I MET HIM.
COULDN' 'A BEEN A LIE TO GAIN YOUR AFFECTION, COULD IT?
IS THAT REALLY TRUE?
YOU WERE GOING ON ABOUT 'STALKERS' BEFORE, RIGHT?
SFX: POKAAN
AAH, RAIDOU-SAN! HE'S TALKING ABOUT A PERSONAL EXPERIENCE HE HAD WITH A CABARET CLUB GIRL!
IF YOU WENT TO A SHOP AFTERWARDS, THAT'S JUST 'ACCOMPANYING' HER.
—— EVEN IF YOU MET AND SHARED A MEAL TOGETHER
YOU DID ACTUALLY DATE HER AND EVERY-THING, RIGHT?
DON'T SAY THAT!
YOU CAN'T CALL THAT A DATE, OKAY? YOU GET THAT?
WERE THOSE REALLY DATES?
YOU MUSTN'T SAY THAT!
There are some things you just shouldn't say out loud even if you know they're true!
Doesn't seem to have any idea what he's being told...
SFX: SUWAH

THERE ARE SOME MORE DEVASTATING CASES...
THEY DON'T LEAVE YOU AND KEEP MILKING YOU FOR ALL YOU'VE GOT.
WHERE ...
A DIVORCE COSTS
GOT IT?
7 TIMES WHAT A WEDDING DOES, YOU KNOW?!
—— WELL,
THAT'S IF YOU CAN GET HER TO LEAVE YOU...
PLEASE DON'T WRITE THIS OFF AS JUST SOME ADULT LECTURING YOU.
SO DO YOU UNDER-STAND THIS...?
YOU'VE GOT TO THINK THIS OVER CARE-FULLY...
SFX: GOHH

SFX: BUH BUH (MUMBLING)
Concen-trate... You've gotta focus...
Kiriyama Rei...
KIRIYAMA REALLY IS SOMETHING.
*Fatigue
HAA
HAA
HAA
THIS GUY REALLY IS A CANDIDATE FOR FUTURE MEIJIN!!
—AND IN A WAY KIRIYAMA IS ALSO PRETTY INCREDIBLE
FOR FOLLOWING THE LINE OF PLAY HE WORKED OUT WITH THIS INTENSE SOLILOQUY RUNNING IN THE BACKGROUND..
KUHH
HE'S TALKING ABOUT THE KITASHINCHI CABARET GIRL HE GOT INVOLVED WITH.
EVEN THOUGH HE'S SEPARATED FROM HER NOW, THEY'RE STILL TECHNICALLY TOGETHER
AND SHE MAKES RAIDOU KIRYUU PAY HER HUGE LIVING EXPENSES EVERY MONTH! FOR HIM, IT'S LIKE COUGHING UP BLOOD, SAYING THOSE THINGS ALOUD!!
Raidou-sann!
SFX: GWAHH

SFX: NECHI NECHI NEH DOKI (PERSISTANT)
Doesn't even have the energy to interrupt anymore
Taking all he has not to make a mistake in any move until he gets to check-mate.
HAA
HAA
YOU NEED TO TAKE CAUTION!!
—— AND AS A MAN LIKE THAT STILL HAS REMARKABLY MEAGER CHARM, WHEN A WOMAN AP-PROACHES YOU WITH MAR-RIAGE...
BOTH AS A PLAYER AND AS A HUMAN BEING... I MEAN, AS A MAN YOU'RE STILL DEVEL-OPING...
YOU'RE STILL YOUNG...
ネチネチ
ネバ
SFX: DUTTA (EXHAUSTED)
As someone who could be the next Meijin, she's looking
at your lifetime income.
SHE'S NOT LOOKING AT YOU.
SHE'S LOOKING AT THE 'MONEY' BEHIND YOU.
IT PAINS ME TO SAY IT,
BUT I'M GOING TO HAVE TO SAY THIS BLUNTLY
aa
Rr_oosss
And here comes his jealousy over this young person's first looooove!!!
ぶわっ

SFX. SARATTO (CASUALLY)
NO MATTER WHAT SOMEBODY THAT DOESN'T KNOW A THING ABOUT HER SAYS ABOUT IT,
I'M NOT CHANGING MY MIND.
OH, I SEE.
THEN LET ME MEET HER.
—IF YOU'RE THAT SURE OF YOURSELF,
THEN YOU WOULDN'T MIND ME MEETING HER, RIGHT?
HUH?
AH, HOW ABOUT
THE 3RD GAME OF THE KIRYUU CHAMPIONSHIP?
THAT'LL BE AT MY HOMETOWN OF KAGOSHIMA! ☆

SFX. SAHH SUTAH PONN
KAGOSHIMA'S A GREAT PLACE! ☆ IT'S GOT TONS OF WONDERFUL ONSENS!!
U-UH,
BUT,
RIGHT NOW HER AND HER FAMILY ARE HAVING THIS PROBLEM...
ALL THE MORE REASON !!
ALL OF THEM MUST BE PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY EXHAUSTED FROM BEING FOLLOWED AROUND BY A STALKER, RIGHT?
THERE'S NO BETTER TIME THAN A TIME LIKE THAT TO SOOTH THE FAMILY'S PAIN WITH AN ONSEN, OON'T YOU THINK?
YOU CAN'T BRING THEM?
AH, I SEE, I SEE..
SFX HEEEH HEEEH HEEW...
HUH?
BUT, UM...
HE~~H.
YEP, EXPECTED AS MUCH...

SFX: DOOON
Time Until the Last Shinkansen to Tokyo: 40 Minutes
Aagh, oh, I don't even care anymore!
Please, just plaaaay!!
THERE'S A 99.9% CHANCE YOU'RE BEING SUCKERED, DECEIVED, AND TAKEN FOR A RIDE!!
THEN MARK MY WORDS !!
THEN YOU'LL BRING THEM?!
LIKE I SAID, PLEASE, JUST HURRY UP AND PLAY!!
OKAY, THEN THE PLAN'S ALL SET! ☆
Yes, yes, okay, uh~~~ whatever you want, just say the words, please!
'I-have-lost☆'. Okay, game's oveeeer!
Don't forget about our plans, okaaay?!!
Chapter 109 END

REGARDING TALKING DURING MATCHES

Whew, that Raidou Kiryuu sure is a chatterbox, isn't he? Of course, there are no players like that in reality. But what he said about 'Ya know, in the old days, everybody used to talk as they played a lot more...' is true. Around the time I was training to become a pro and when I became a pro, there were a plethora of players that talked to themselves or chatted during matches. For one, the major Meijin of the Show Era, Ooyama Yasuharu, the 15th Meijinm, loved idle chat. As one might expect, he didn't talk much with the person he was playing against during matches, but he had a specialty of exchanging a few words with reporters watching the match or pro players that had come to observe. Anything from something as trifling as '****-san, thank you for coming out this afternoon.' to things like rumors going around the shogi world. He also had a knack for talking to himself. In the endgames he would say 'It's gotten more and more complicared.' Or in the midgame he would say 'Okay then, why don't we give this move a shor?' He would interject with all sorts of things like that, talking to himself.

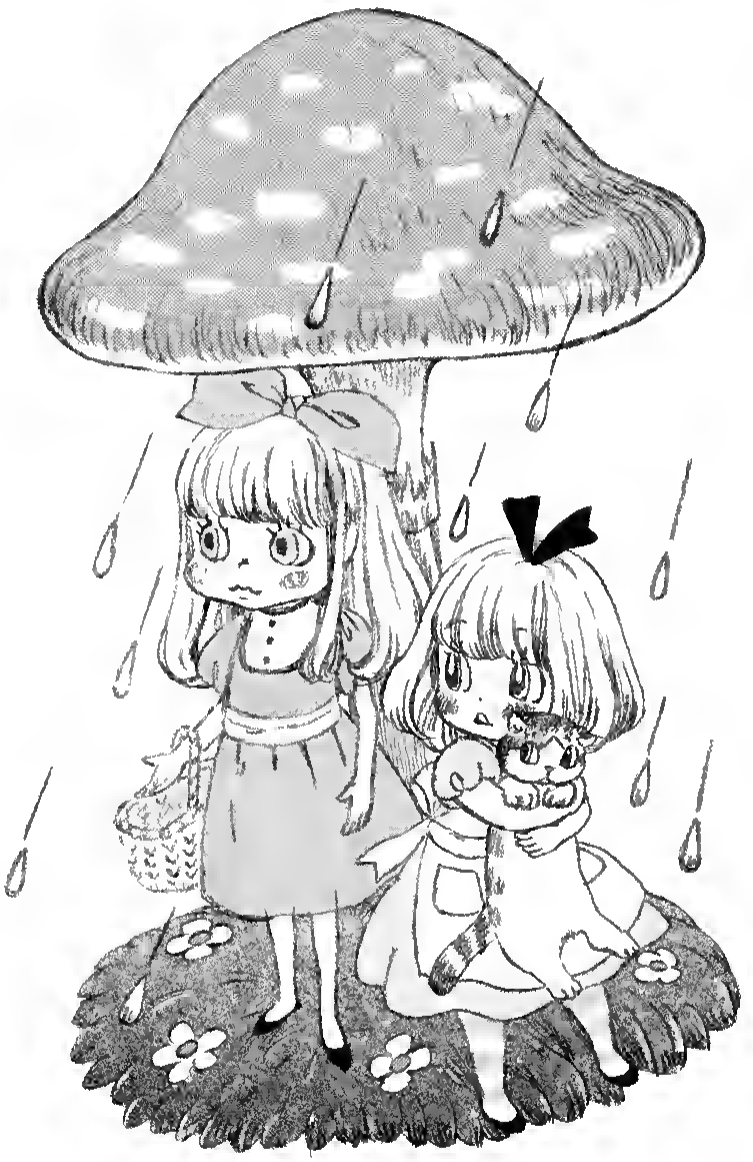
With a top player like that, of course many players followed suit. In this big room people called the banquet hall, literally three rooms with the dividers removed, people would be facing a large number of other people, especially in the morning, so before the pieces started clacking, players, especially veteran players, would talk to each other quite a bit. Different people would talk about different things. The subject of illness would be a staple of veteran players' conversation. Younger players would talk about this and that regarding alcohol they'd drank recently, or about public gambling establishments, or about how last month somebody got a yakuman in mahjong. They didn't even care if they were playing against someone. Not only that, they're frequently chat with their opponents, too.

Once, in the beginning of March, when they were keeping records for the last games of the A-class rank-deciding matches, Ooyama, Yonenaga, Katou Hifumi and some other top players started just talking in some match room. Deeply interested, I listened in and it turns out it was about money. Yes, of course with March comes final income tax returns. Everyone was exchanging information on tax-planning. With all these major events like candidate matches and people going down in rank happening right in front of them, you might be wondering why they're acting so carefree, but taxes are an undeniable major event as well (if you're an adult, you'll be all too aware).

There aren't any players that make small talk in my current match rooms. It's quiet enough where I can say it doesn't happen at all. And I think I can say honestly, I'm oddly nostalgic for the old days. Thinking back to then, there were many players that didn't feel like they have any sensitivity to thinking out their openings, (Sort of a feeling like a real match was the head-on confrontation in the midgame!) and also the available time was overall longer than it is now and everyone knew how you needed to take a breather once in a while if you wanted to stay alive. Now, everyone's thinking about detailed strategies on the 3rd or 4th move. So no one really feels like chatting. ...Correct. The ultimate correct form of a shogi player. The way it should be. It's odd for opponents to be talking to each other while they're in matches, but for some reason, I still have nostalgia for that idyllic atmosphere.aaa

Chapter 110

Osaka ④



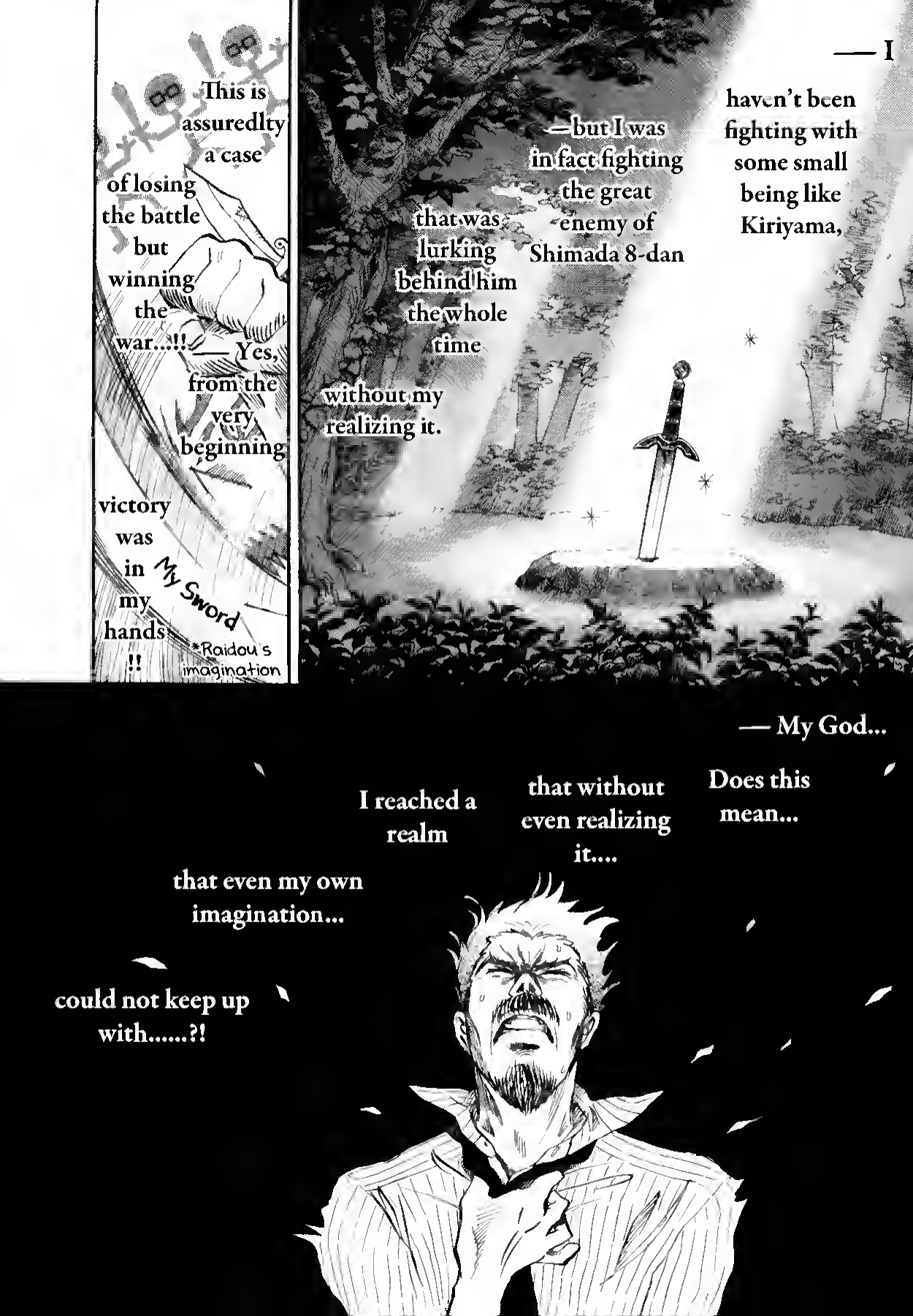
*Questionable talk (Image)
DAMMIT... KIRYAMA...
I CAN'T BELIEVE A YOUNGSTER WOULD PULL SUCH AN UNDERHANDED TACTIC...
HE USED THAT WHOLE QUESTIONABLE TALK TO THROW ME OFF MY GAME.
HE WRENCHED THAT VICTORY RIGHT OUT OF MY HANDS...!!
DAMN HIIIM...
SFX: DAN DAN DANNN
I MISJUDGED YOU, KIRYAMA!!
THAT COWARD!
SFX: DOSS DOSS DOSS DOSS
HM?

—— When I saw the form of Shimada sitting there beyond recognition

I realized.....

—— that from the start

I was not wrong about a single thing.....


— I
haven't been fighting with some small being like Kiriyama,
—but I was in fact fighting the great enemy of Shimada 8-dan
that was lurking behind him the whole time
without my realizing it.
This is assuredlty a case of losing the battle but winning the war...!!
—Yes, from the very beginning
victory was in my hands!!
My Sword
*Raidou's imagination
— My God...
Does this mean...
that without even realizing it....
I reached a realm
that even my own imagination...
could not keep up with.....?!

Tomorrow's match is mine!!
LOOK!
HE VERY OFTEN PAYS HIS RESPECTS TO 'THE BUDDHA OF POSITIVITY'!!
THAT'S THE TITLE-HOLDER, FUJIMOTO RAIDOU KIRYUU'S, POSE OF HIDDEN STRENGTH!!
I DON'T THINK I COULD EVER DO THAT! ☆
—I MEAN, LOOK AT HIM! I MEAN IT'S SUCH A TRULY LEGENDARY POSE!!
The last time I did that pose was in 7th grade
SFX : HARAHARA...
HE SETS THE BAR SOOO HIGH!!
東京
とうきょう
Tōkyō
山区
しながわ
Shinagawa
RRRRRRRR
YES,
HELLO?
AH. IT'S KIRIYAMA. SORRY I'M BACK SO LATE.
WHAT ARE THINGS LIKE OVER THERE?

YOU MUST BE EXHAUSTED
WE'RE DOING FINE HERE
YES.
Ashizawa-sama, I'm so sorry we're asking you to do this on top of everythi~~ng.
BASICALLY WHAT'S GOING ON IS...
Nooo! No trouble at all! Akari-san, to be honest with you
I'm the kind of guy that just loves seeing a bowl fill to the brim with graded daikon.
SFX GASSH GASSH GASSH GASSH GASSH GASSHSHI
WE MAY BE QUITE A WAYS FROM ANY GINZA BAR, BUT...
HERE YOU ARE!
GRATED TUNA PASTA, WITH THE DAIKON FRESH OFF THE GRATER!!
SFX DONN
How much grated daikon would you like, Tooyama-sama?
Ooh, Akari-san!
Haaah, Momo chan is such a little cutie~~~
Give me plenty of graded daikon!! And lots of tuna, too!!
Grated daikon and tuna pasta is sooooo good! ☆
Is this your spoon, Momo-san?
Ooh! I was lookin' all over for it!

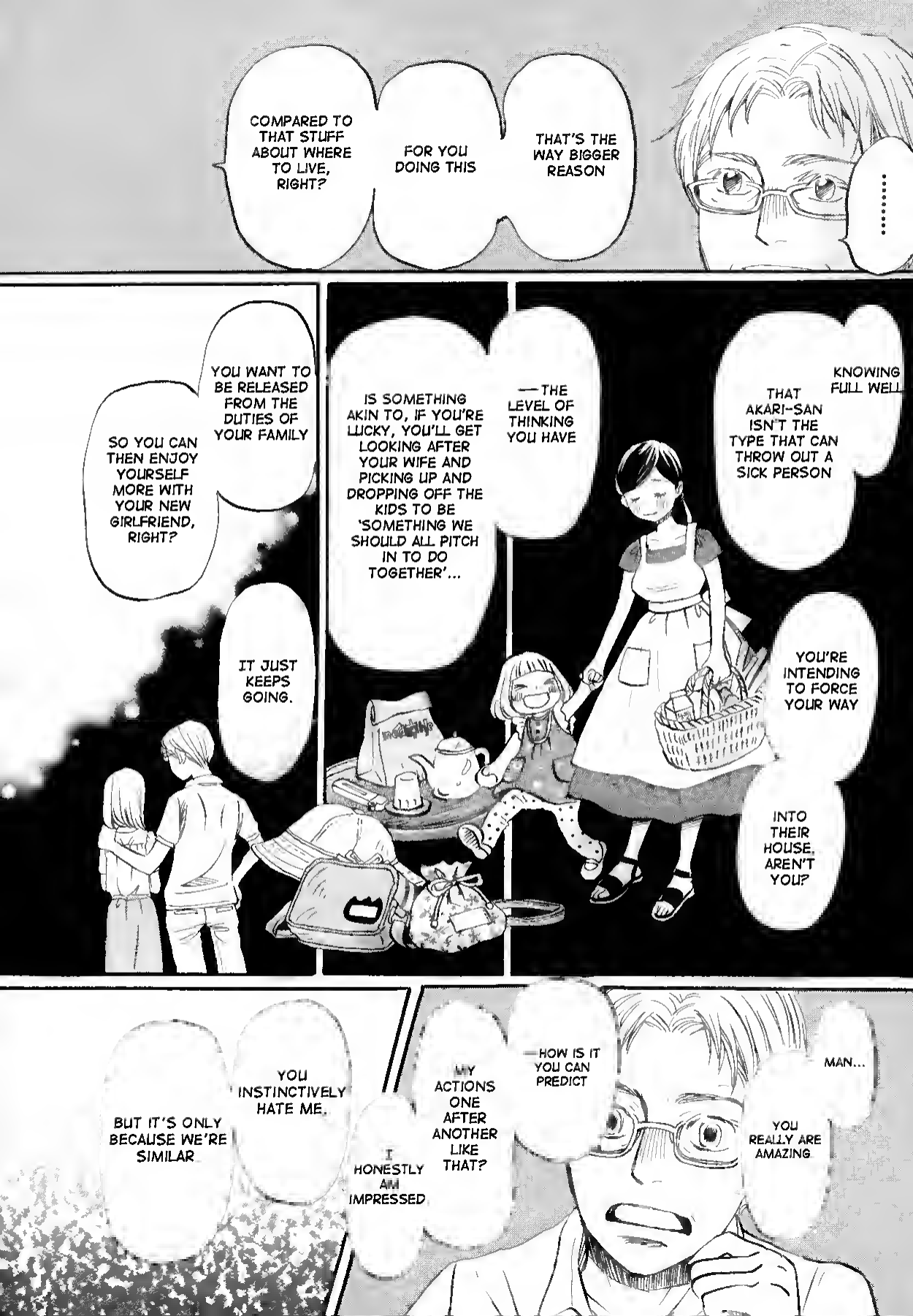
YES, THAT WOULD BE GREAT!!
Please!!
How would you like some cosmopolitans, customers?
Oookay then, time for some practice making cocktails.
♫
♫
JUST BE QUIET
SHH.
AND EAT.
MUCH DOES THIS COST, DO YOU THINK...?
HOW...
If we don't have that person's kuzu manju for the summer, my granny will be so disappointed! We've got to get you healthy again soon...
His blood pressure.. I've gotta be careful about that myself.
I'm a bit worried about Someji-san
SO KIRIYAMA-KUN, YOU MUST BE TIRED. GETTING BACK FORM OSAKA ON THE SAME DAY AND EVERYTHING.
IT'S PRETTY UNEVENTFUL HERE,
— SO THANKS.
WE'RE PUTTING MOMO TO BED SOON
She overslept her afternoon nap today but it looks like she's finally getting sleepy
SFX: UTO UTO (DOZING)
SFX: PI PI PI

WELCOO
OOME!
カランコロン…

GOOD EVENING.
SEX BIJUN SURUNOSA@ATAKA
HAHA...
WELL, LOOKS LIKE YOU GOT ME.
SO, WHY?

—WEREN'T YOU IN OSAKA...?
PEOPLE ARE ABLE TO SEE INFORMATION ON THE SHOGI MATCHES ONLINE NOW,
SO I HAD EVERYONE IN THE KAWAMOTO FAMILY TAKE SOME TIME AWAY FROM THE HOUSE.
haaaa

I'M BEHIND YOU IN ALL THAT.
SO HOW ABOUT FROM HERE, WE ALL WORK TOGETHER TO HELP EACH OTHER OUT?
HINA REALLY BAGGED A GOOD GUY.
I'M SERIOUS.
I MEAN, IT'S KIND OF EARLY, BUT IT SHOULD BE ALL RIGHT.
INCLUDING MARRIAGE.
MMHM
WHAT ARE YOU RUNNING FROM THIS TIME?
YOU WANT ME TO EARN THE MONEY TO SUPPORT EVERYONE?
THEN WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
HAHA.
HUH?
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
I COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO TELL THE KAWAMOTO FAMILY ABOUT THIS,
BUT YOUR WIFE IS SICK, ISN'T SHE?


COMPARED TO THAT STUFF ABOUT WHERE TO LIVE, RIGHT?
FOR YOU DOING THIS
THAT'S THE WAY BIGGER REASON
.....
YOU WANT TO BE RELEASED FROM THE DUTIES OF YOUR FAMILY
SO YOU CAN THEN ENJOY YOURSELF MORE WITH YOUR NEW GIRLFRIEND, RIGHT?
IT JUST KEEPS GOING.
IS SOMETHING AKIN TO, IF YOU'RE LUCKY, YOU'LL GET LOOKING AFTER YOUR WIFE AND PICKING UP AND DROPPING OFF THE KIDS TO BE 'SOMETHING WE SHOULD ALL PITCH IN TO DO TOGETHER'...
—THE LEVEL OF THINKING YOU HAVE
KNOWING FULL WELL
THAT AKARI-SAN ISN'T THE TYPE THAT CAN THROW OUT A SICK PERSON
YOU'RE INTENDING TO FORCE YOUR WAY
INTO THEIR HOUSE, AREN'T YOU?
BUT IT'S ONLY BECAUSE WE'RE SIMILAR.
YOU INSTINCTIVELY HATE ME.
I HONESTLY AM IMPRESSED
MY ACTIONS ONE AFTER ANOTHER LIKE THAT?
—HOW IS IT YOU CAN PREDICT
MAN...
YOU REALLY ARE AMAZING

SURPRISINGLY ENOUGH,
YOU'RE THE TYPE TO DO THE SAME TYPE OF THING! ♡
YOU AND I ARE FUNDAMENTALLY DIFFERENT.
WITH YOU, IT'S ALL THE SHORT-TERM VIEW.
PEOPLE LIKE THAT
SMOOTH THINGS OVER WITH LIE AFTER LIE JUST TO GET PAST WHATEVER PROBLEM THEY'RE UP AGAINST AT THE MOMENT.
AND ONCE YOU'RE CHECKMATED,
THINGS GET LONG AND DIRTY.

SFX KARAN
HEY, KIRIYAMA-KUN?
DO YOU KNOW MUCH ABOUT CUCKOOS?
カラン!...
JUST HOW MANY TIMES ARE YOU PLANNING ON REPEATING THAT PROCESS?
BUT WHEN THEY BECOME TOO MUCH OF A PAIN, YOU JUST GO ON TO THE 'NEXT ONE'?
YOU'RE WILLING TO THROW YOUR OWN FAMILY AWAY TO BE WITH SOMEONE,
LIKE A CUCKOO...
THEY GET THEIR EGGS
TO BE HATCHED BY OTHER BIRDS IN OTHER BIRDS' NESTS WHILE THEY THEMSELVES GO OFF SOMEWHERE...
THEY'RE WHAT YOU CALL BROOD PARA-SITES.
I'VE KINDA...
THOUGHT I'M
A LOT LIKE THAT.

But rather,
a bird...
if I really were
I WANT TO BECOME A PRO... WORK HARD... GET ANY RESULTS I CAN,
WIN GAMES, EARN MONEY
AND BECOME INDEPEN-DENT
ARE YOU REALLY NOT GOING TO HIGH SCHOOL?
YES
ARE YOU ABSOLUTELY SURE ABOUT THAT?
then I could go through all this
without feeling all this awful pain.....

That's it, shut up...
HUH?
Don't give me that BS.
If you wouldn't mind being a cuckoo,
then why don't you go sit naked in a tree
and eat some bugs?

Chapter 110 END

REGARDING PERSISTENT PLAYERS AND PLAYERS WHO PLAY GAMES WITH LARGE NUMBERS OF MOVES

The average number of moves a pro player makes in a game is just over 100 moves. Sometimes there are games with only 60 moves, and sometimes those with 160 moves. I feel like if I had to pick one, there would be more 160-move games. But if you look at the data, there becomes a clear distinction between players who tends towards longer games and who tends towards shorter games.

Faster players, players that tend towards shorter games, have two distinct traits. One is approaching, being good at mating the gyoku. Because when the opponent holds up against them, it leads to a longer number of moves. The other is when they're playing a losing game, they tend to resign early. I probably don't even need to say why that is. Players that like to resign early, also called candid players, are now very few. Everyone keeps holding out to the end. Those people are pretty unpleasant..... Oh, actually I guess I'm one of them.

One top-level shogi player that resigns early is Shima Akira 9-dan. In quite a large number of situations, where he was aware he was losing and a good number of places where it seemed like he could still keep going, he would cast down his pieces. But when he wins, he can play really persistent shogi. His senses are probably a bit too sharp. On the other hand, a player famous for having games with many moves is the recently retired player from Osaka, Awaji Hitoshige 9-dan, known as the 'Long Game Artist' and 'Never-Lose Style'. Even when situations where Awaji-sensei is in superior position, he resists and resists and gets gradually better, but he still resists. To the point where the opponent gives up. That's his style of shogi.

Other current shogi players that are really persistent are... pretty much all young people. When you're young, it's way easier to have more confidence in your stamina, so you never give up. But even that still depends on one's style of play. I'd say that players like Hirose Akihito 8-dan don't tend to play as many moves. In this person's case, his tactics are too good so he wins very quickly but when he loses, he sometimes falls for his very own tactics. Resisting moves can sometimes be pretty bad tactically. Watanabe Akira Ki-ou is like that as well. Toyoshima Masayuki 7-dan is also this type. However, none of them have giving-up habits. And even if they do, there are no young players that win like Shima-san... at all. Peoplllle, please sympathize with us old shogi dudes a littllle! (I'll bet all the young players that read this column will now be even less likely to resign against me.)

Shogi with many moves tends to be in games with large amounts of available time. Speaking specifically, that tends to be the rank-deciding matches. This is of course because players are both enthusiastic, but also because holding out against a bad board takes considerable technique which in turn also requires a lot of time. Shogi is a game in which if there's a gap, that gap tends to get larger and larger as time goes on. So against that fundamental shogi theory, you need to strike back, resist, and play really good moves that can be decisive runs against their opponent, which are no easy feats.

Even though there are players that tend to have fewer moves in their games, the fact of reality is that the number of players who tend to have long games is so huge that I could never write them all.

Harunobu-sama is watching vigilantly over Elizabeth...

3月のライオン

March comes in like a lion

Chica Umino

Chapter. 111

The Night the Cuckoo Sang

3月のライオン

March comes in like a lion

Chica Umino

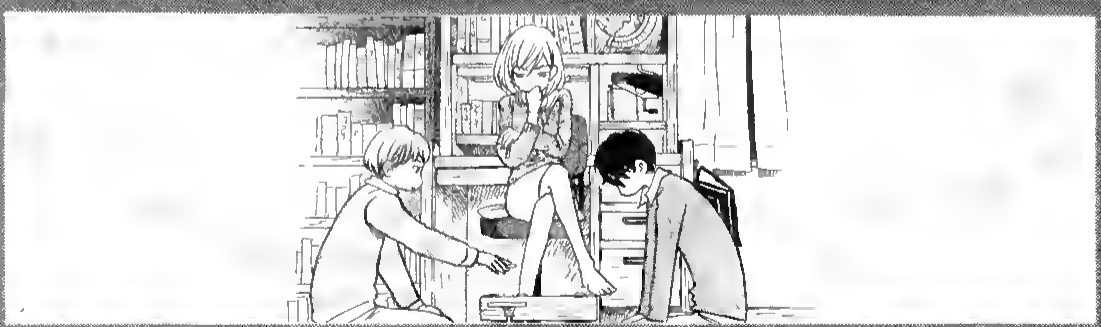
Life is always

about the two choices of

'stand up' or 'sit down.'

If things would eventually be okay if I just didn't do anything, then that's what I did.

— But that concept is so simple, I knew it even when I was in elementary school.



So I searched desperately for a place it was okay for me to be.

I had to stand on my own two legs, I thought.

So I could live

even if it was all alone.

WHOA.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
WHAT?
WHAT A SCARY FACE.
ARE YOU REALLY MAD NOW?
I REALLY DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING EXCEPT THE PART ABOUT BUGS.
COULD YOU SAY THAT AGAIN FROM THE BEGINNING?
AH, SORRRY.
—WHAT WAS THAT EXACTLY?
So I
could get by without harming anyone.

YOU'VE COMPLETELY STOPPED THINKING, HAVEN'T YOU?
ANYTHING YOU HEAR JUST SKIMS ON THE SURFACE.
YOU'RE ONLY
THINKING ABOUT HOW TO GET MY EMOTIONS JUMBLED, RIGHT?
.....
YOU'RE WAITING FOR YOUR OPPONENT TO FLY INTO A RAGE AND SELF-DESTRUCT,
OR GET FED UP AND LOSE ALL WILL TO FIGHT.
BUT I'M USED TO THAT SORT OF THING FROM MY WORK,
SO AS LONG AS IT TAKES, I WON'T GIVE IN.

I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT IT FOR QUITE SOME TIME NOW.
HOW TO STOP YOU
FROM COMING TO THE KAWAMOTO HOUSE
BUT YOU ALSO
GRADUALLY STARTED USING FIRMER MEASURES.
AND I THINK THAT YOU
HONESTLY DON'T REALLY KNOW
.....
WHAT TO DO ANYMORE, EITHER.
WELL...
I GUESS THERE'RE TWO CHOICES.
① 'Work hard myself.'
② 'Have other people work hard and mooch off them.'
BY THE WAY, REGARDING ②,
UNFORTUNATELY, THE CHANCES OF THAT HAPPENING ARE ZERO.
YOUR SPECIALTY 'DON'T THINK ANYTHING JUST KEEP SPOUTING WORDS LIKE A MACHINE GUN'
AGAINST YOUR DAUGHTERS TO WHOM YOU ARE CONNECTED BY BLOOD,
MIGHT HAVE GOTTEN A HOLD ON THEM,
—BUT

— UH,
I'M STILL A BIT WORRIED EVEN THOUGH YOU'VE GOT SUCH TIDY ANSWERS.
OUR PARENTS HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS.
I WANT TO MAKE THAT PERFECTLY CLEAR.
SFX: KIPPARI (PLAINLY)
I really don't wanna because they'll get mad at me!
THEN WHAT ABOUT TALKING TO YOUR WIFE'S PARENTS?
—No. I can't bother her parents.
That's just not in the cards.
SFX: KIRITH (TIDY)
YOUR PARENTS ARE ALIVE AND HEALTHY, AREN'T THEY?
HAVE YOU TRIED TALKING TO THEM?
—No. I can't worry them.
That's just not an option.
SFX: KIRITH (TIDY)
UNFORTU-NATELY, I'M A STRANGER,
SO I'LL BE BY THEIR SIDE SAYING 'NO, YOU ABSOLUTELY CANNOT DO WHAT THIS GUY SAYS!!' —
A THOUSAND TIMES OVER AND OVER.
— SO, WHILE IT FEELS QUITE STRANGE TO BE SAYING THIS
TO SOMEONE WHO'S LIVED OVER TWICE AS LONG AS I HAVE.....

THEIR GRANDFATHER IS GOING TO BE RELEASED FROM THE HOSPITAL SOON, RIGHT?
BUT
BUT BASICALLY YOU DON'T WANT YOUR PARENTS TO FIND OUT 'BECAUSE YOU DON'T WANT THEM MAD AT YOU', RIGHT?
YOU'RE TRYING TO MAKE IT SOUND GOOD,
I REALIZED THAT, YEAH,
THIS PERSON IS PLANNING TO RUN OFF TO THE NEXT ONE...
—— AND THEN I REALIZED.
SO I STARTED WONDERING WHAT YOU WERE GOING TO DO THEN ..?

—— HEY, ARE YOU... REALLY 19 YEARS OLD?
YOU SURE YOU'RE NOT A MIDDLE AGED MAN ON THE INSIDE?
Or perhaps an old lady?
MAYBE...
OR MAYBE YOU'RE JUST WAY TOO EASY TO READ?
EVERYTHING YOU DO IS SO SIMPLE THERE ARE A TON OF PLACES THAT MAKE ME THINK 'NO WAY, REALLY?'...
AAAH, I'M KINDA TIRED.
I'M GONNA GO HOME AND SLEEP. HALF THE STUFF YOU SAID WENT IN ONE EAR AND OUT THE OTHER.
THEN I WILL, TOO. ☆
EXCUSE MEEE!
WE I HAVE THE CHECK, PLEAAASE?!
SEPA-RATE CHECKS!
Was trying to leave without paying
HMPH
THANK YOOOOU, COMING RIGHT UP!
Please pay at your seat!
—AND IF YOU TRY TO DRAG THIS ON ANY FURTHER,
WE'LL PROACTIVELY BRING THIS IN A MUCH MORE DIFFICULT DIRECTION.

SO WHEN THAT TIME COMES,
IT WON'T BE IN A FAMILY COURT WHERE WE MEET, IT'LL BE AT A REGULAR COURT.
THROUGH INTRODUCTIONS FROM THE SHOGI ASSOCIATION I GO TO POLICE OR BAR ASSOCIATION SHOGI CLUBS TO TEACH.
I HAVE A LOT OF PEOPLE THERE I'M FRIENDLY WITH.
—— AND FORTU-NATELY, I ALSO HAVE THE FUNDS TO PAY FOR IT,
SO I HAVE PLENTY OF STAMINA ON THE MONEY SIDE OF THINGS.
SFX: GIH KARA KARAN

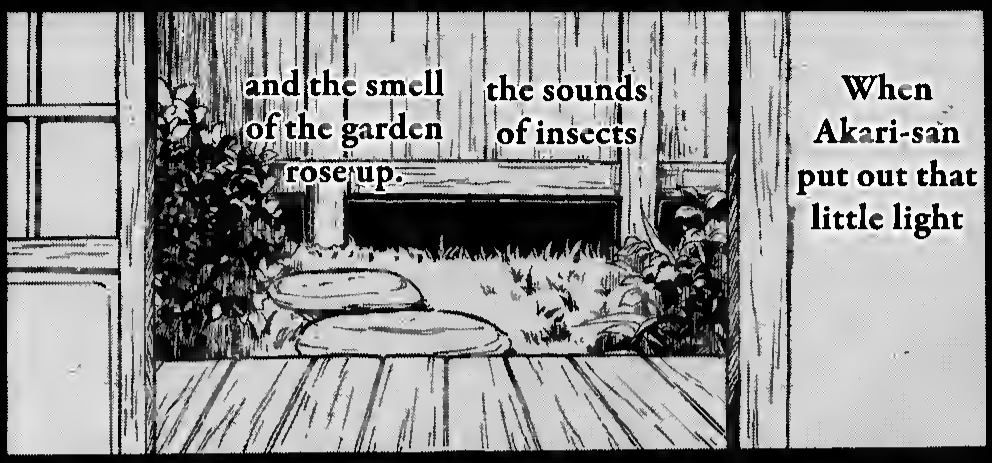
SFX: KARAN KARAN...
ENOUGH THAT EVEN IF YOU WORKED NON-STOP STARTING NOW FOR THE ENTIRE REST OF YOUR LIFE, IT WOULDN'T BE ENOUGH.
I'LL KEEP GOING WITH THIS AS LONG AS I HAVE TO.
WHAT IS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE?
A THREAT?
You really are
a piece of shit.

HUH...?
WHAT?
...MY EYES ARE IRRI-TATED...
I GUESS THAT'S WHAT I GET FROM WAKING UP AT 5AM
GOING TO OSAKA AND COMING BACK, ALL WHILE DOING A DOUBLE HEADER WITH RAIDOU KIRYUU
AND SAISHI SUTEO ...
AH...
AW MAN.
THIS AIN'T GOOD ...
SFX GARARA... GATATA SURORORO
ガララ
ガタ。。
.....
HUH?!
WHAT'S WRONG, HINA ..?
REI-CHAN?!

SORRY...
IT'S OKAY.
WE WERE SUPPOSED TO STAY OVER AT AUNTIE'S HOUSE,
BUT MOMO STARTED CRYING ABOUT WANTING TO GO HOME...
I NEVER WOULD'VE EXPECTED YOU TO COLLAPSE LIKE THAT.
WHAT DID... OUR DAD SAY?
AKARI-SAN, I
DON'T WANT
SO OUR DAD... CAME, DID HE?
KIRIYAMA-KUN, THANK YOU. I'M GLAD I DIDN'T LEAVE MY LITTLE SISTERS AT HOME...
—— BUT I'M GLAD WE CAME BACK.

THAT GUY TO EVER...
COME NEAR THIS HOUSE AGAIN...
.....
REI-CHAN
.....
SFX TOSA
DDDD

SFX: POHHH


When Akari-san put out that little light
the sounds of insects
and the smell of the garden rose up.

Ri...
Riri...
Riri
Rin
Riri...
Rin...
Riri...
Rin

That night was like we were alone silently floating

on a river with no waves.
Chapter 111 END

REGARDING SHOGI HALLS

I was raised in a prototypical shogi hall. From my third year of elementary school for about a year and a half, a person named Ichige-san brought me to a shogi hall in Mito almost every day and the old men there taught me everything from the very basics.

Still, those old men back then were really loud. At first, I didn't play shogi with anyone that staid quiet. They would tease their opponents nonstop. If you checked someone, they called it the 'First check medicine'. If you put a fu on the piece stand, it was a 'lesser cuckoo of fu mountain.' When could take a piece but the piece wasn't a good piece to take it was, 'a fish dealer's cat not even worth catching'. It was a busy little place. Really, it was hard to tell at times if we were there to play shogi, or to compete to get the last word in. At night, they'd start drinking and playing games like mahjong. It's because I was trained in an environment like that that I'm who I am today. By the way, nowadays I don't heat those retorts anymore. Because now, I write these things on singing papers when I give autographs. Because among all that teasing, I believe that there is shogi culture that is rooted in the lives of common folk.

Those old men had a great saying, 'For sake, asecond stomach. For shogi, a second brain.' Essentially, that means that strength at shogi and general intelligence are completely different. Though, I guess he might've just been flaunting his success. Though I tell myself that phrase all the time.

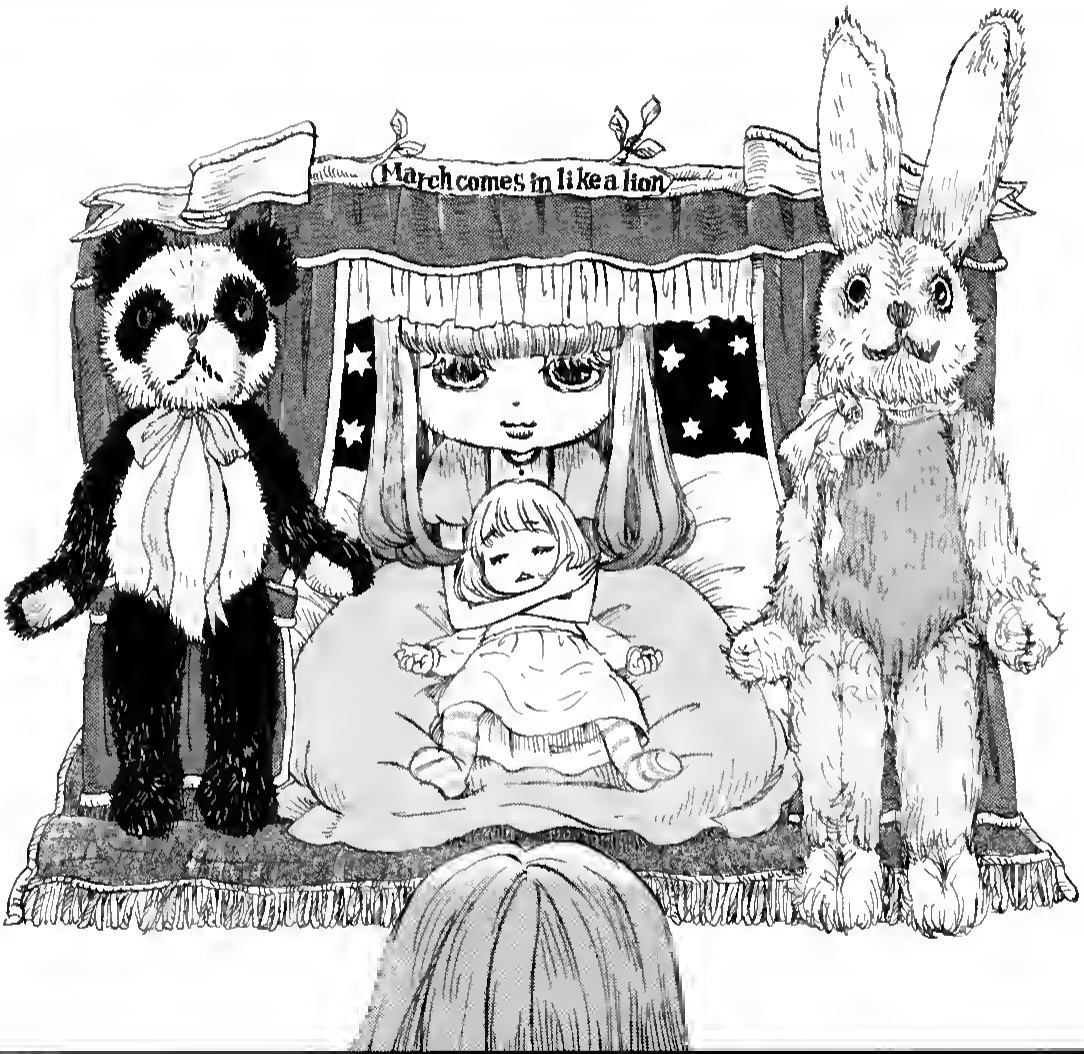
Nowadays when I talk about shogi halls, it's pretty much about me going to do teaching matches. They're all pretty healthy. They've got quiet old men playing. .....They look a lot like the shogi association building's match rooms I wrote in column (1). It's possible that the shogi players that were loud during matches may have been connected to an amateur shogi world like the one I grew up in.

For beginners, shogi halls are scary places. People tend to have an image where if someone as careless as them goes in one, everyone will glare at them so they get too scared to even try. But leaving my old days aside, today's shogi halls rarely have that sort of thing. I'd say most are pretty kindly. However, well, there probably are still some around like the one from my old days. So maybe research what people are saying about a specific hall online before you go.

When I talk to people at shogi halls, I'm a bit tough on the kids, pretty soft on beginners, and with female beginners I ask them to please go soft on me. Right now, there are a lot of people with senses like mine, so I hope that you out there reading this column can drum up some courage and open the door to a shogi hall. And, without hesitating, (though I guess it's pretty hard to start out with) put all you have into the board and play some shogi. Those skillful old men really like seeing a beginner facing the board with enthusiasm. Even if you lose, it's really nothing to be worried about. After all, it's a 'separate brain'.

Chapter 112

Sunday ①

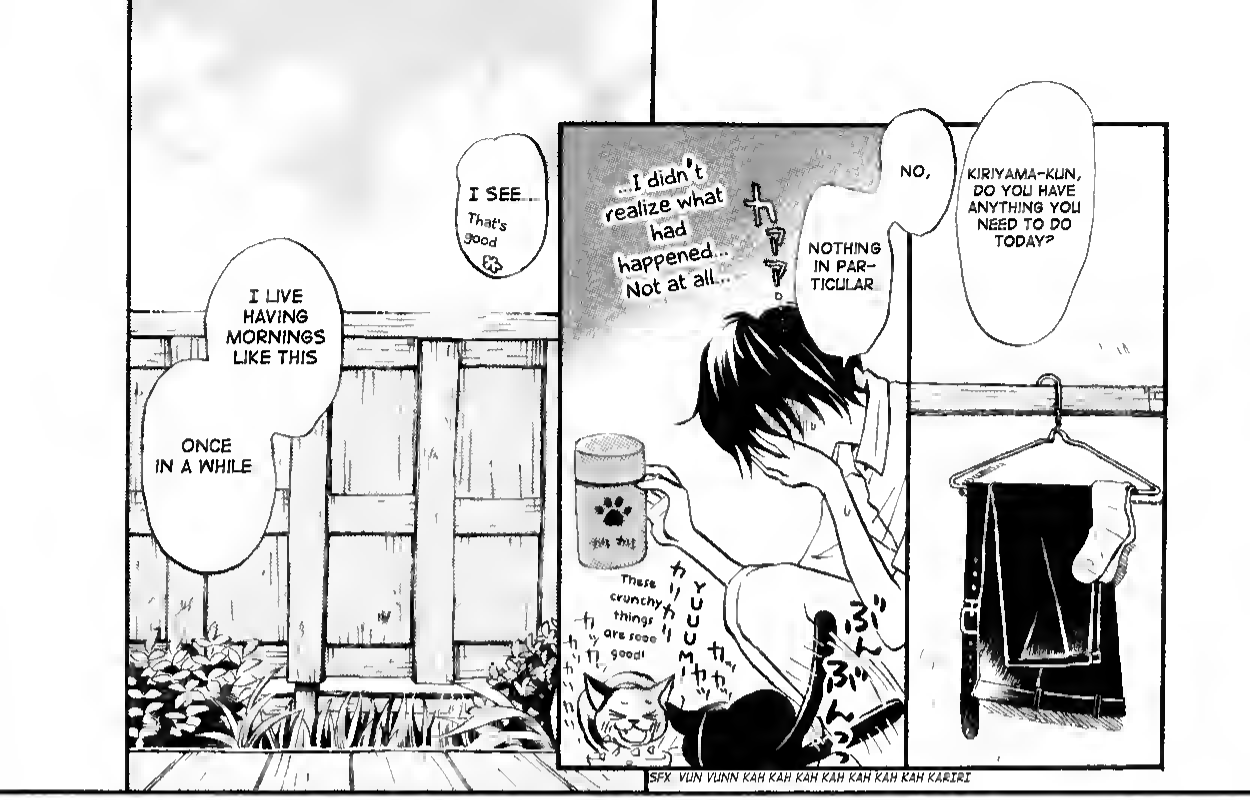


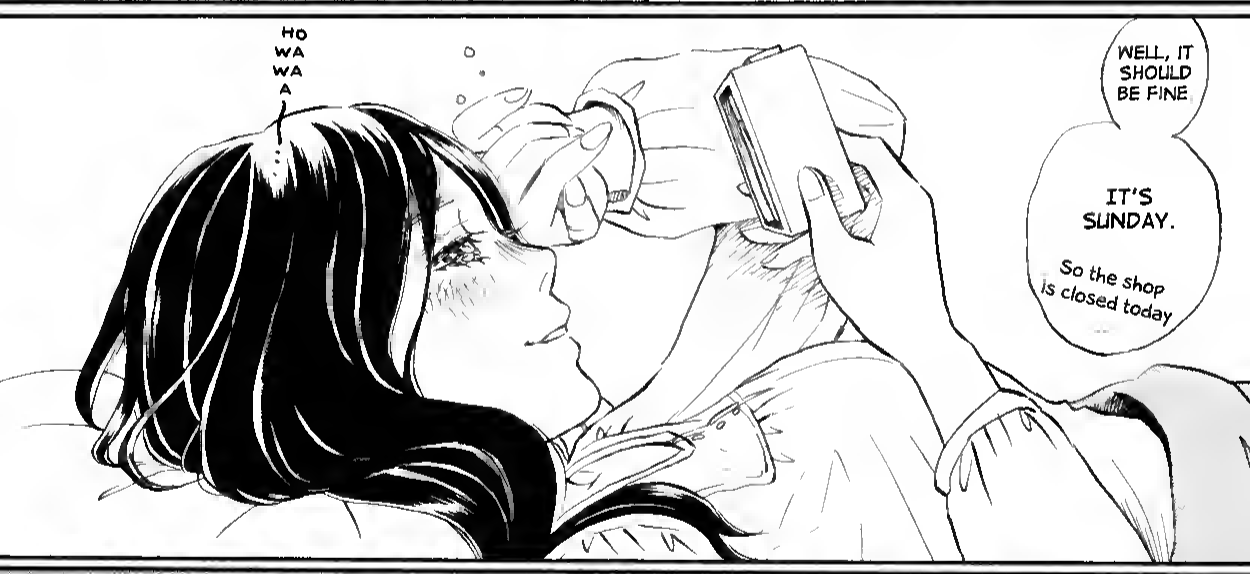
SFX SOH STEP
そっ
ふみ……っ
SFX JIIIH (STARE)
じ〜っ
……
WHAT?
チョイ
チョイ
HM?
SFX CHOI CHOI
スー
スー
SFX SUUU SUUU

SFX CHIRIRIN
キィ

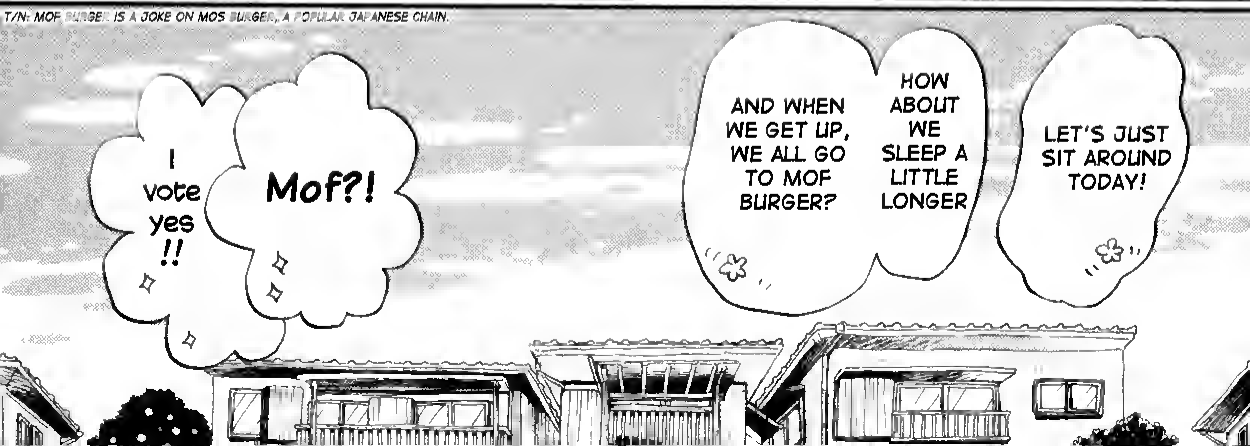
SFX JIII... (STARE)
!!
SFX SUN SUN (SNIFF SNIFF) HUN HUN
AH,
HEY!
スン
スン
スン…
NN...
…
Hina-chaaan, feed meeee!
NYAA…
Hn~~~
Nya~~~ what is it?
uh…
You'll wake her up!
WA WA WAH!
…
EHEHE
HEHEE
Ehehe…
REI-CHAN?
……
HAHAH

HM?
SFX. GORO GORO HUN HUN HUN GUI GUI
WHAT?
N~~~~~
Onei-san!
Onei-san!
It's morning! C'mon! It's time for food!!
FOOD?
AH,
I'LL MAKE BREAKFAST.
WA~~
REALLY? THAT WOULD BE SUCH A BIG HELP!
.....
*Uncovered leg
SFX GYUUUU N MOZO MOZO
WE TOOK THEM OFF IN WHEN YOU WERE ASLEEP, THEY LOOKED PAINFUL
Your shoes, too.
.....
*Arm Grab pose
THEY WERE GONNA GET WRINKLED
WE HUNG THEM UP IN THE HALLWAY
RIGHT, KIRIYAMA-KUN, YOUR PANTS
AH,

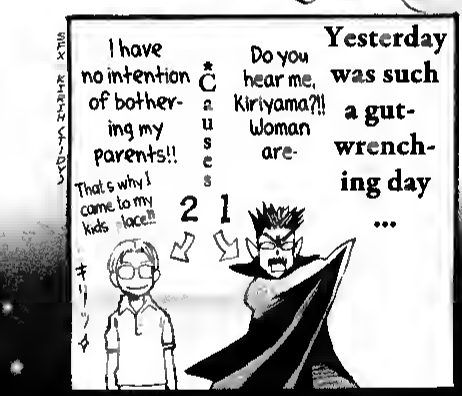

I SEE...
That's good
I LIVE HAVING MORNINGS LIKE THIS
ONCE IN A WHILE
...I didn't realize what had happened... Not at all...
NO,
NOTHING IN PARTICULAR
KIRIYAMA-KUN, DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING YOU NEED TO DO TODAY?
These crunchy things are sooo good!
YUUM
SFX: VUN VUNN KAH KAH KAH KAH KAH KAH KAH KARIRI



T/N: MOF BURGER IS A JOKE ON MOS BURGER, A POPULAR JAPANESE CHAIN.



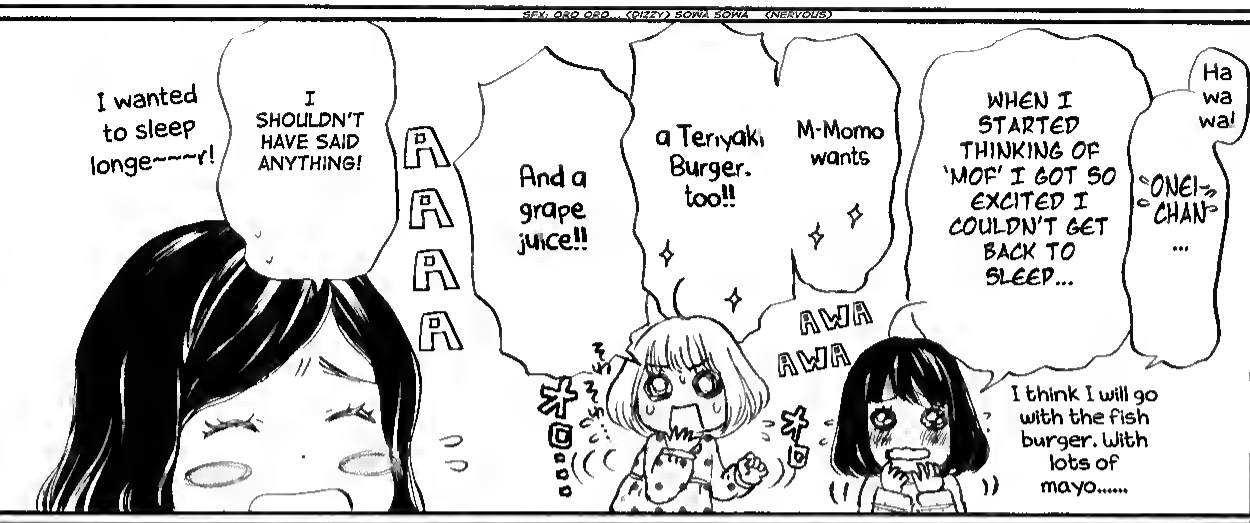
What are you gonna get,
Onei-chan?!
fries!! Lots of fries!!
melon
And, juice! and,
M-Momo wants
And... nuggets!!! With mustard sauce!! And cola!!
I'm gonna get a the fish burger with onion potatoes set.
SFX GOROGORO GOROGOROGORO... GOROGOROGOROGORO... (ROLLING)


I have no intention of bothering my parents!!
That's why I came to my kids place!!!
*Causes 2 1
Do you hear me, Kiriyama?!! Woman are-
Yesterday was such a gut-wrenching day ...

happy time?
What do you wanna have, Rei-chan?
Hey, hey, would you throw this for me, please?
Huh? What's going on with this

way back then.
the Sundays I used to spend
But today is like...

SEY! ORO ORO... (DIZZY) SOWA SOWA (NERVOUS)



—I'm not sure how, but somehow I felt busy yet quiet,

white, dazzling,

and euphoric.

have been friends for a long, long time.
It kinda feels like we all
everyone's so happy?
Why is it today
we were a real
— It was like
MOF BURGER
We'll be able to carry a whole lot with 4 people.
AH,
HOW ABOUT SINCE WE'RE ALL TOGETHER, WE STOP BY THE SUPERMARKET ON THE WAY BACK?
YEAH, LET'S DO IT!
SFX: ATAHH JYUUWAAAHHH (SIZZLE)
and eat them up when they're still piping hot!!
then we can fry them on a hotplate
We can all wrap them and make a ton of them
GYOUZA PARTY?!
How about a gyouza party tonight?
Oh, I know!
family...
JUUUU!!
EEEEE?!!
!!
!!

SFX YAHOOOEYY
OH, I DON'T KNOW... IF WE STUFF OURSELVES ON BOTH OF THEM IT'LL BE SO MANY CALORIES...
AH... BUT... GYOZA AND RICE GO SO WELL TOGETHER...
HAUWW
'PURELY ON GYOZA'!!
AND TODAY WE'LL FILL OUR STOMACHS
WE'LL PUT IN LOTS OF CABBAGE SO IT'S SWEET AND HEALTHY
IF WE STUFF THEM WITH CABBAGE
THAT SHOULD CUT THE CALORIES TO AROUND HALF, RIGHT?
SO IF IT'S HALF THE CALORIES, THAT MEANS 'WE CAN EAT TWICE AS MUCH AND WE'LL BE OKAY', RIGHT?
WHOA. ONEI-CHAN... YOU'RE A GENIUS!!
THAT'S PERFECT!!
IT'LL BE SO HEALTHY !!
.....
HUH?!! HALF THE CALORIES ?!
HAUWW
← Archaic smile

—I feel like

I've always yearned for a Sunday like this.

What's happening to dietary education in Japan...?!!
Rice is a veg-etable !!
— SO THAT MEANS IT'S HEALTHY, RIGHT?
THEY PICK IT IN A FIELD! After you take the water out of a patty field, it's sort of a field, right?
RICE IS A VEGETABLE, RIGHT?
AND HEY,
Uh
SIIN
Fervent speech!!

SFX: RAAN GUHH HARAHARA (NERVOUS)

Where everyone woke up together, laughed, ate, discussed dinner, and went shopping ...

that would be so wonder-ful...
con-tinne on and on for-ever,
could just
Like if days like this
HEY.

SFX: ZAH...
KIRI-YAMA-KUN!! WAIT!!

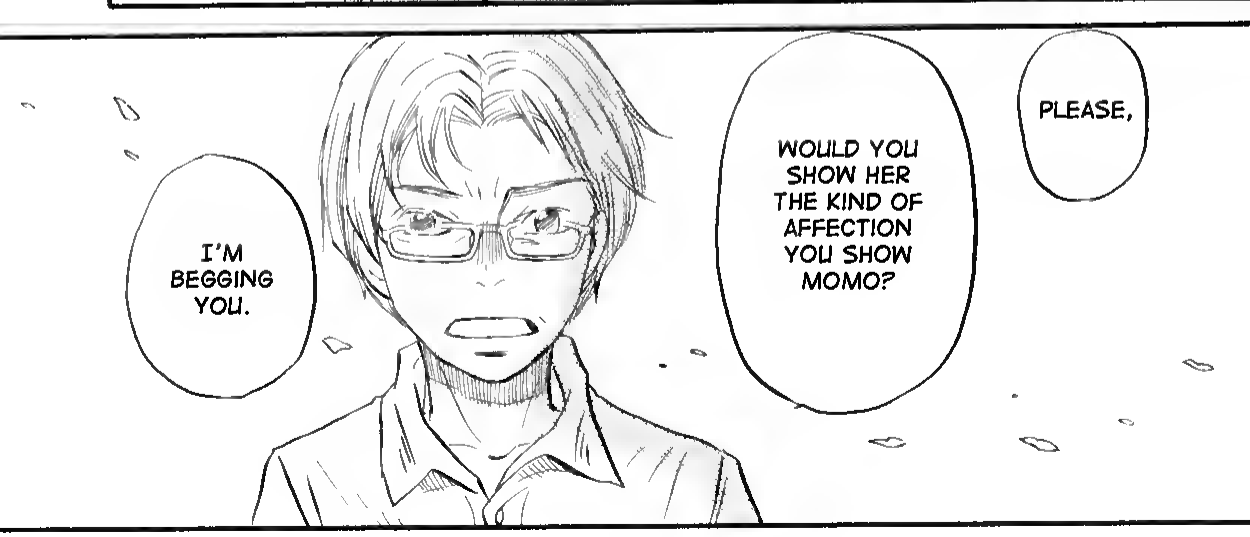
WAIT!
KIRI YAMA-KUN!!
THANK YOU!! I REALLY APPRECIATE WHAT YOU'VE DONE...
BUT IT'S OKAY, I'LL TALK TO HIM.
BUT...
IT'S OKAY.
—THIS'S BEEN SUCH A PLEASANT SUNDAY, AFTER ALL....
SUU....

IF THERE'S GOING TO BE A TIME TO PUT AN END TO ALL OF THIS,
IT'S A DAY LIKE TODAY.
Chapter 112 END

Chapter. 113

Sunday ②

I CAME TO ASK ONE LAST FAVOR...
AKARI, HINATA,
THIS IS YOUR LITTLE SISTER.
I FEEL SO BAD FOR HER,
HER MOTHER IS IN ILL HEALTH SO SHE HAS NO ONE THAT CAN LOOK AFTER HER.
I...
FEEL SO MUCH PITY FOR HER.


PLEASE,
WOULD YOU SHOW HER THE KIND OF AFFECTION YOU SHOW MOMO?
I'M BEGGING YOU.

UNFORTU-
NATELY,
WITH YOUR
MOTHER
AND DAD,
A LOT
HAPPENED
AND THINGS
DIDN'T
WORK OUT
WELL.
BUT
DAD
HAS
ALWAYS
BEEN
WORRYING
ABOUT...
DAD,
WAIT...
AT
LEAST
DON'T
MISTAKE
THAT
PART.
'A LOT
HAPPENED'
...?
— ALL
THAT
HAPPENED
WAS
YOU
FOUND
SOMEONE
YOU
LIKED.
MOM LOVED
YOU TO THE
VERY END...
SO
DON'T
...
TRY TO PASS IT
OFF LIKE 'BOTH
OF YOU WERE
RESPONSIBLE'.

AS THE KIND PERSON YOU KNEW HER AS...
I'D LIKE IT IF YOU COULD REMEMBER HER...
YOUR MOM ISN'T WITH US ANYMORE ...
NO,
DAD, THAT'S ENOUGH!!
BUT
... WELL ...
LET'S NOT GO ONTO THAT.
THE TRUTH IS...
THERE WERE A LOT OF THINGS THAT HAPPENED WITH YOUR MOM THAT WE NEVER TOLD YOU ABOUT...
.....
WELL...
—YOU'VE BEEN OBFUSCATING THINGS THIS WHOLE TIME.
STOP.
But..... I can't take this anymore .....
JUST... —WHAT'S IT CALLED... TRYING TO MAKE US THINK THINGS...
AKARI ALL THAT ...
HUH?
That's where you decided to cut in, Akari-san ?!
I'm impressed!!
a wa wa wa wa
Ooh... Onei-chan?! You're finally going to say it right there?!
Ha wa wa
Honestly.....
I'm sorry...
IT DIFFERS FROM THE TRUTH.
EVEN IF
YOU ALWAYS SAY WHATEVER IT IS WILL GET YOU THROUGH WHATEVER YOU'RE UP AGAINST AT THE MOMENT.
DAD,

HINA,
THERE ARE PEOPLE THAT WILL JUST DECIDE TO EXTRAPOLATE THE TRUTH IF IT'S CONVENIENT FOR THEM
IN THIS WORLD
AND WHILE THEY'RE TALKING
THEY'LL CONVINCE THEMSELVES THAT THAT'S HOW IT REALLY WAS.
THAT'S
OUR FATHER.
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT,
AKARI .....?
I'M WILLING TO BET THAT WHEN YOU WERE CONVINCING THAT OTHER WOMAN,
YOU PROBABLY
MADE MOM OUT TO BE A BAD PERSON.
—— BUT AS YOU KEEP SAYING IT OVER AND OVER
HEYYY!
I THINK YOU ACTUALLY CONVINCED YOURSELF THAT'S HOW IT REALLY WAS.
AKARI, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!
But... I feel guilty about your wife and daughters ...
Well... The truth is... my wife.....
I feel What.....?! so bad Your wife for you. is really Sutea- that awful san!! ?!
—I've had it tough for a long time.... So
I really... need you!
I know with you I won't have to suffer like that!!

AKARI... WOULD YOU PLEASE STOP?
YOU'RE IN FRONT OF THE CHILDREN, YOU KNOW?!
I FINALLY REALIZED THAT THE WAY DAD WORKS
IS HE FLIPS OVER THE CARDS LIKE THAT,
FORBIDDING CERTAIN WORDS IN ORDER TO TIE EVERYONE DOWN.
IF WE GO ALONG WITH THOSE RULES
THEN WE WON'T BE ABLE TO MAKE ANY MOVES TILL THE DAY WE DIE.
IT'S NOT GOOD TO MAKE ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT PEOPLE LIKE THAT.
AKARI.
IT'S NOT AN ASSUMPTION.
YOU SAID SO YOURSELF, DIDN'T YOU, DAD?
LET'S ALL TALK IT OUT TOGETHER.
OUR FAMILY AND THEIR FAMILY...
NO.
WE CAN'T DO THAT.
!!
WHY?!
キッパリ
SFX: KIPPARI (FLATLY)

SFX: KIPPARI (FLATLY)
—BECAUSE...
WHAT I'M SAYING HERE IS DIFFERENT FROM WHAT I'M SAYING THERE.
キッパリ
.....
...HUH?
TH-
THEN YOU'RE TELLING US TO JUST ... LIE DOWN AND ACCEPT THE SITUATION?
■■■■
■■■
チラッ
SFX: CHIRAH (GLANCE)
WHAT ...?!
What was that glance?!
UHUHUHUH
ARE YOU KIDDING ME?!
UH
OH

MY MIND WENT BLANK.
I COULDN'T BELIEVE THAT A FULL GROWN ADULT
LET ALONE MY OWN FATHER COULD SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
WHEN I STARTED WONDERING ABOUT WHAT HE WOULD SAY NEXT,
I WAS TOO SCARED
AND COULDN'T LISTEN TO ANYONE ANYMORE...
— What was right in front of me
— Yeah, Dad's not coming back...
at my Dad's face back then, I thought
But when I looked
was scary,
ugly,
and hopeless.
We've done all we can now... I thought.
of being a hero in front of the other woman.
Dad is putting on a whopper of a performance
Right now,

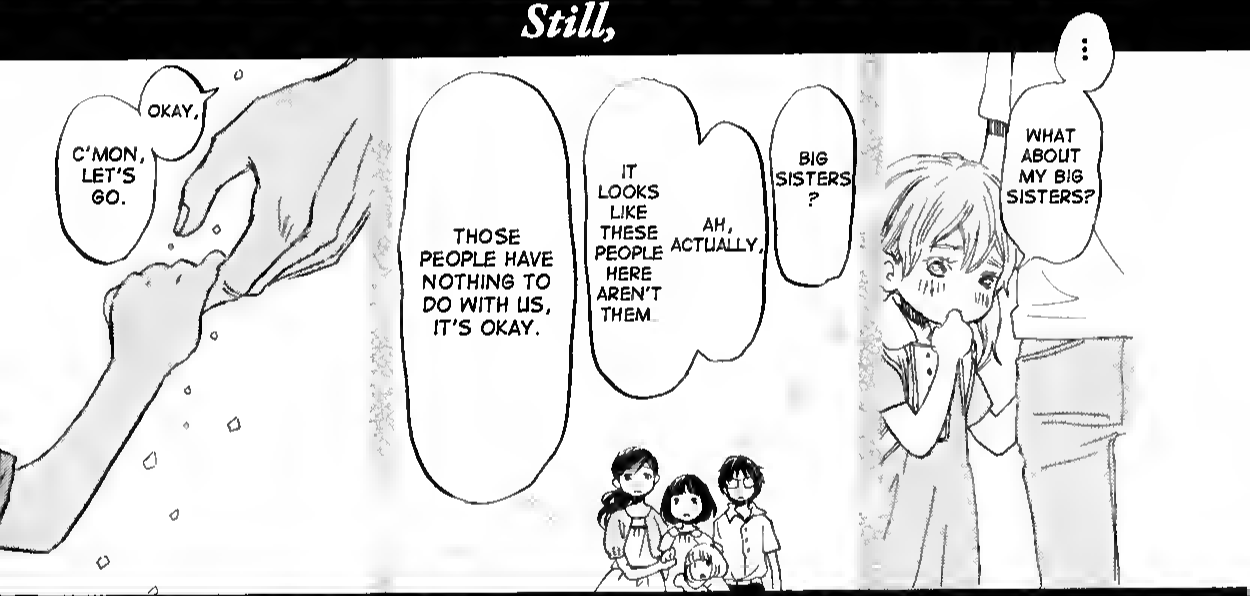
Our dad
that we loved so,
I thought that we
had become 'something'
that Dad and that woman want to disappear from their sight as quietly as possible...
so, so, much.

'IF YOU BROUGHT THEM TO HEAVEN WITH YOU, IT WOULD CAUSE YOU NOTHING BUT PAIN THERE.'
'THESE THINGS BELONG TO A STRANGER.'
AND I
GRANDMA
AND THREW THEM AWAY.
TOOK THEM OUT OF THE CASKET
— INCLUDING ONES WITH DAD.
WAS FILLED WITH PICTURES WE TOOK AS A FAMILY.
THE BOX WE WERE ASKED TO PUT IN HER CASKET
'I'LL BE GOING THERE SOON, TOO.'
'DON'T BE LONELY.'
BUT
WOULD YOU THINK OF YOUR LITTLE SISTERS, AS WELL?
I TRULY ...
FEEL SORRY FOR WHAT I DID...
And just like she said,
Grandmother passed away the next Spring, like she was following her.

MAYBE YOU AND HINA HAVE,
—BUT MOMO
HAS NEVER ONCE LIVED WITH A FATHER, HAS SHE?
DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S SAD?
IF YOU CUT YOURSELVES OFF FROM ME NOW,
THEN MOMO WILL NEVER HAVE WHAT IT'S LIKE
TO HAVE A 'REAL FATHER'.
ARE YOU OKAY WITH THAT?
...
IT'S OKAY!!
IT'S OKAY, ONEI-CHAN!
IF THERE'S EVER A DAY WHEN MOMO CRIES ABOUT IT, I'LL EXPLAIN TO HER
THAT IT WAS SOMETHING THAT YOU AND I DECIDED TOGETHER!!

HINA...
.....
I
NOT EVER!
WON'T LET HER LIVE WITH DAD.
DAD CHOSE HIMSELF
THAT HE WANTED TO BE THE FATHER TO HIS OTHER FAMILY.
SO HE SHOULD
TAKE RESPONSIBILITY AND LIVE THERE!!
WAIT!!
WE'RE FINE JUST THE 3 OF US!!
AREN'T YOU FORGET TING SOME-BODY ?!!
YOU MEAN 4, RIGHT? 4 OF US!!
What do you mean, 3?!
KIRIYAMA-KUN?! THAT'S WHERE YOU DECIDED YOU HAD TO SAY SOMETHING ?!
HUUUUH?!
Hold on...

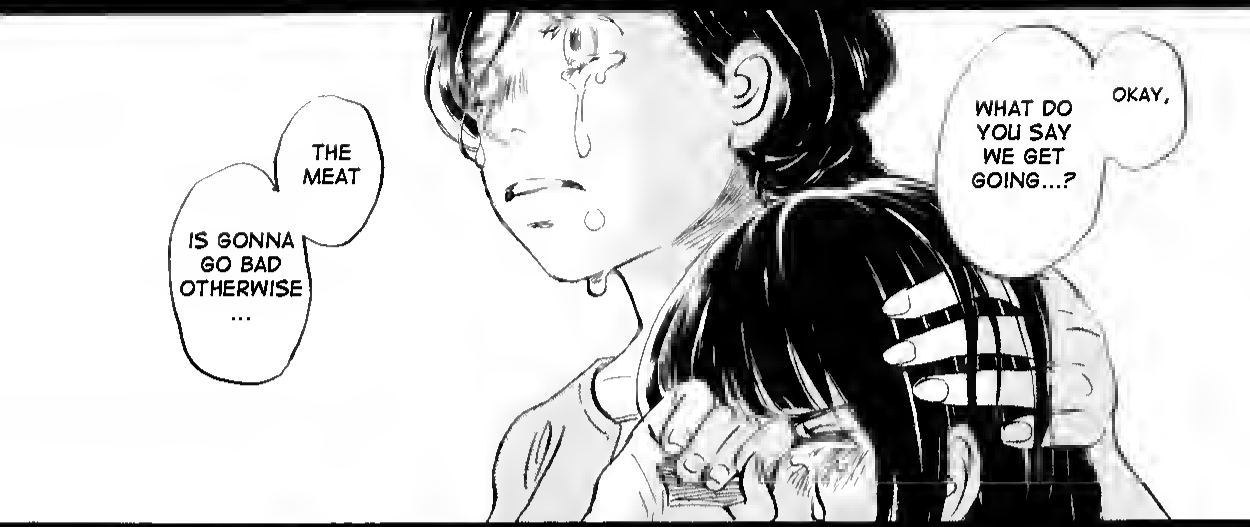
Still,


OKAY,
C'MON, LET'S GO.
THOSE PEOPLE HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH US, IT'S OKAY.
IT LOOKS LIKE THESE PEOPLE HERE AREN'T THEM
AH, ACTUALLY,
BIG SISTERS?
...
WHAT ABOUT MY BIG SISTERS?

— When they saw those joined hands

the girls next to me couldn't say a thing.

I heard cries that were like screams.



Like the setting sun was slowly falling apart.

Hina-chan and I minced all the onions and cabbage, rubbed the ginger,
mixed it together with the meat and kneaded it in a bowl.
Then we all sat around the dining table like always
and fervently wrapped the gyouza.
—And then
we grilled a ton of it
and ate it until our stomachs were full.

— The sky was blue like a high,
high up
Antarctic sea.
Deeply embracing this small town where the people I hold so,
so dearly live
and becoming transparent.
Chapter 113 END

Chapter 114

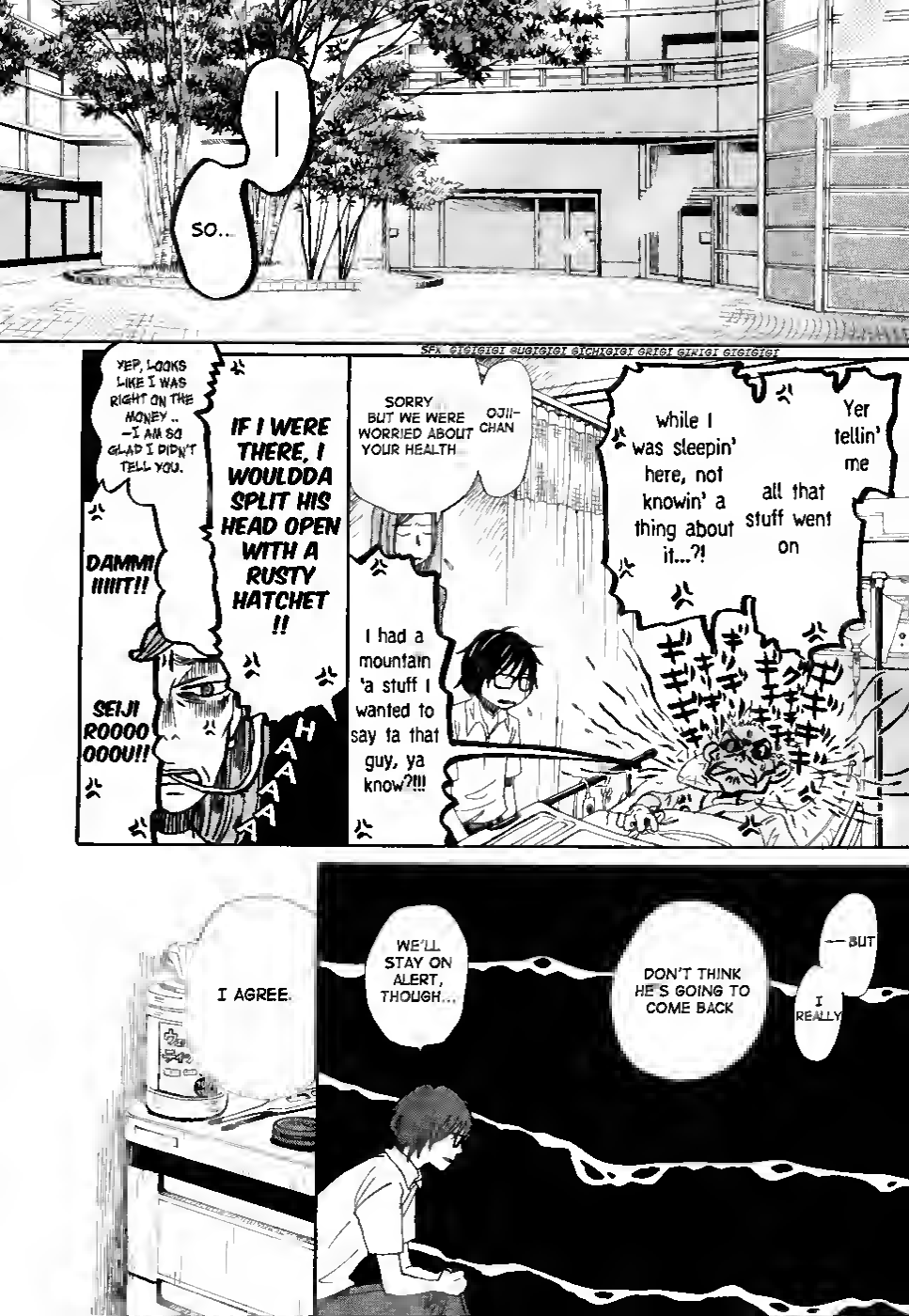
Gentle Song

3月のライオン

March comes in like a lion

Chica Umino

That was it for their Dad.
He never came back again.
Akari-san's health
deteriorated
and whenever she moved around even a little
— her fever would go up in the evening.


SO..
SFX: GIGIGIGI GUGIGIGI GIGHGIGI GRIGI GIWIGI GIGIGIGI
YEP, LOOKS LIKE I WAS RIGHT ON THE MONEY.. —I AM SO GLAD I DIDN'T TELL YOU.
IF I WERE THERE, I WOULDDA SPLIT HIS HEAD OPEN WITH A RUSTY HATCHET !!
DAMMM IIIIIT!!
SEIJI ROOOOOOOU!!!
AAAAAAAH
SORRY BUT WE WERE WORRIED ABOUT YOUR HEALTH
OJII-CHAN
I had a mountain 'a stuff I wanted to say ta that guy, ya know?!!!
while I was sleepin' here, not knowin' a thing about it...?!
Yer tellin' me
all that stuff went on
I AGREE.
WE'LL STAY ON ALERT, THOUGH...
DON'T THINK HE'S GOING TO COME BACK
—BUT I REALLY

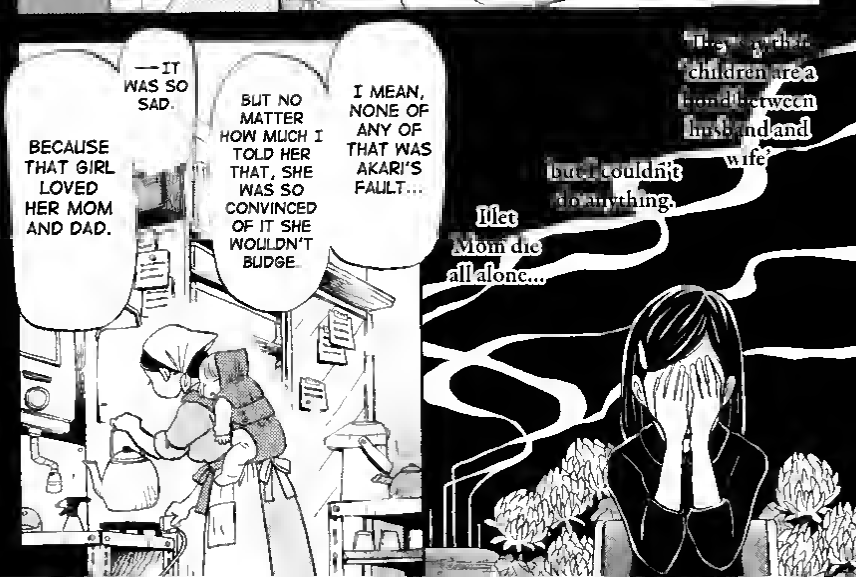
SFX KOKKURI KOKU KOKU (NODDING) DOKI DOKI DOKI DOKI (HEARTBEAT)
I THINK HE'S NOT GOING TO APPROACH ANYMORE PURELY OUT OF SHOCK
BUT GETTING 'NEVER FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES' FROM TWO DAUGHTERS WORKED PRETTY WELL. OR RATHER,
...I mean, that really makes no sense ...
Now why the hell would they think that ?
I MEAN, WITH MEN, EVEN WHEN THEY'RE CRUELLY THROWN AWAY, FOR SOME REASON THEY STILL BELIEVE THAT WOMEN (INCLUDING DAUGHTERS) 'SHOULD STILL A---LWAYS LOVE ME☆'...
Ah, thank you
SFX GARA GARA GARA
Kawamoto-saaan! It's lunch time!
NOT THAT I KNOW WHAT HIS THOUGHT PROCESS WAS
THAT MADE IT END UP THAT WAY.
Ah, thank you very muuch
—BUT AKARI SEEMS PRETTY BEATEN DOWN...
PROB-ABLY BECAUSE SHE DOESN'T LIVE BY THE IDEA OF 'KEEPING STEADY', SHE LIVES BY 'I HAVE TO KEEP STEADY.'
—SO, ABOUT WHERE THINGS ARE GOING FROM HERE,
KID,
SO HAVING TO STAY IN BED FOR SO LONG... MUST BE REALLY TAXING FOR HER

SFX: DOKKIIINNN GYANN KAAAHH
I HEARD WHAT HAPPENED.
SO, YOU PROPOSED TO MY GRAND-DAUGHTER, DID YA?
I-I'M SORRY FOR
TAKING SO LONG TO REPORT IT.
I KNOW I BROUGHT IT UP VERY SUDDENLY,
BUT I HAD BEEN THINKING ABOUT IT FOR SOME TIME BEFORE THEN, SO I DID NOT SAY THAT WITH ANY SORT OF HALF-HEARTED FEELINGS!
I FERGIVE YA.
I'VE BEEN SAVED MENTALLY AND EMOTIONALLY BY HINA A TON OF TIMES UP TO THIS POINT!
YEAH, SO LIKE I SAID, YOU'RE FORGIVEN.
WAIT HUH?
A-AND
ACTUALLY, FORGIVE AIN'T THE RIGHT WORD,
I ACTUALLY THINK THAT'S PRETTY GOOD
YOU'RE ALWAYS BEING SUCH A SOURCE OF STRENGTH FER HINA.
WITH ME, WHEN I WAS A KID,
BOTH MY PARENTS AND MY LITTLE BROTHER DIED IN THE CONFUSION AFTER THE WAR
—— THIS MIGHT NOT RESONATE MUCH WITH YOU ALL IN JAPAN THE WAY IT IS TODAY,
BUT THE WHOLE RYOUGOKU AREA WAS A PRETTY AWFUL PLACE
I STILL DREAM ABOUT IT SOME-TIMES.

— ALL I'D DO WAS FEVERISHLY SEARCH FOR A WAY TA KEEP LIVING...
— SO WHEN I MET YOU
IT REMINDED ME OF ME WHEN I WAS A KID
WE GREW UP IN DIFFERENT ERAS, BUT FOR SOME REASON I JUST THOUGHT OF YOU
AS A KIND 'A COMRADE IN ARMS...
I IMAGINE YOU
ALWAYS WORKING HARD, NEVER THROWING IN THE TOWEL NO MATTER HOW TOUGH IT GETS.
YOU WENT FROM HAVIN' NOTHING,
TO BEING ONE OF THE ONLY 160 PRO SHOGI PLAYERS IN ALL OF JAPAN.
AND
THAT TENDENCY 'A YOURS TO OBSESS ABOUT THINGS
WILL BE A BIG HELP TO MY GRAND-DAUGHTER.
THAT'S HOW I FEEL.

HMM...
HE'S RIGHT.
I MEAN, THAT GIRL MAY BE IN HIGH SCHOOL, BUT ON THE INSIDE SHE'S KIND OF LIKE AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLER.
It could take another 4 to 5 years, though... ..... To persuade her.
MMM...
YOU'RE RIGHT...
Well I thought it would be nice if I can communicate it to her by the time I'm 20.
...OKAY...
IT JUST DEPENDS ON WHETHER OR NOT HINA SAYS 'yes'.
UKYAHOOOH
I'll need you to consider Hina's feelings first and foremost
YEAH, SO NOW
UHM...
NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRY, I AIN'T GONNA BE AROUND TO WATCH OVER MY GRAND-DAUGHTER FOR HER WHOLE LIFE
SO IF I CAN ENTRUST THAT TO YOU,
I'D BE THANK-FUL.
—SO THEN,
THE ONE WHO HAS A PROBLEM IS AKARI.
AKARI'S SUFFERING IS DIFFERENT FROM THE KIND YOU OR ME HAVE.
SHE CARED FOR HER MOTHER AND GRAND-MOTHER ON THEIR DEATHBEDS
AND THEN RAISED TWO YOUNGER SISTERS
THE PAIN OF HAVING TO CARRY OTHERS.

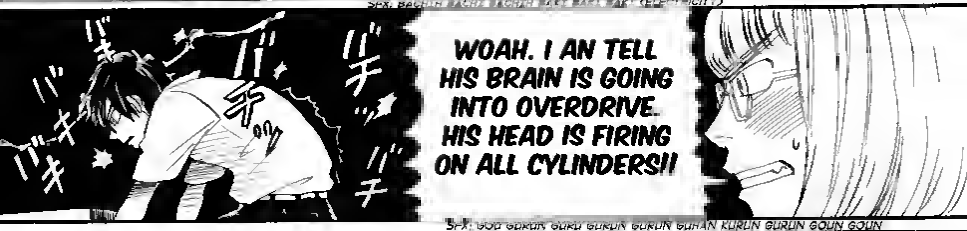
AND SHE MANAGED TO PUSH FORWARD AND DO JUST THAT.
SO HER LITTLE SISTERS WOULDN'T BE LONELY.
SHE STARTED DRESSING AND TALKING LIKE A MOTHER.
WHY...
WHY WOULD SHE GO THAT FAR...?
WELL, SEE, THAT'S BECAUSE AKARI
FELT IT WAS HER FAULT.


I MEAN, NONE OF ANY OF THAT WAS AKARI'S FAULT...
BUT NO MATTER HOW MUCH I TOLD HER THAT, SHE WAS SO CONVINCED OF IT SHE WOULDN'T BUDGE.
—IT WAS SO SAD.
BECAUSE THAT GIRL LOVED HER MOM AND DAD.
I let Mom die all alone...
but I couldn't do anything.
'children are a bond between husband and wife'

I TOLD HER 'JUST GO OUTSIDE ONCE IN A WHILE!' AND FORCED HER TO GO.
ONE DAY, WHEN THERE WAS A CLASS REUNION AND AKARI SAID 'IT'S OKAY, I DON'T HAVE TO GO TO THAT.'
Bye byye!
Thank you, Auntie!
Dressing up
Enjoy yourself! It's okay if you're back laaate!
AND PUTTING ALL HER TIME INTO HELPING OUT AT MIKAZUKI TEMPLE.
AKARI CONSTANTLY HAD MOMO ON HER BACK
SO WHILE GIRLS HER AGE WERE DOING THINGS LIKE GOING TO COLLEGE,
LIKE DATING, AND TRAVELING
WAWAAAHH! Hold on! Hold on, just a second!
HOW AAAAAA~
YEAH, ME, TOO...
—BUT SHE ALWAYS BRINGS HER TWO LITTLE SISTERS ALONG, RIGHT?
THAT KAWA-MOTO...
I REALLY HAD A THING FOR HER, BUT...
HEEY...
I KNOW, RIGHT...?
IT MAKES HER FEEL KIND OF... 'HEAVY'.
KAWAMOTO-SAN SURE SEEMS LIKE SHE'S WAY MORE ADULT... OR LIKE...
SHE'S KIND OF WORN OUT... LIKE THE LIFE SHE'S LIVING NOW KINDA SHOWS THROUGH.
Welcome Sangatsu Middle Class
AH!!
AKARI!!!!!
YOU'VE BEEN HAVING PROBLEMS AT HOME, RIGHT?
Is everything okay?
I haven't seen you in forever!!

WHEN SHE CAME TO LET ME KNOW THAT YOU WERE 'THINKING ABOUT MARRYING HINA'
AKARI WAS REALLY HAPPY.
I never imagined that Kiriyama-kun thought of her that way
Waaaah, what do we do?
Akari-chan, that dress makes you look like a princess!
Sooo, I came home! Eheheh
-So because of that, it was kinda hard to stay there.
Akari~ ~~~
aaa...
Oneichan, you look so cute!
—BUT THIS IS WHAT SHE SAID...
IF HINA LEFT WITH YOU AFTER HINA HAD RELIED ON HER FOR SO LONG
SHE WAS ALSO PROBABLY THINKING ABOUT HERSELF
—BUT AT THE SAME TIME
UNTIL MOMO GOES OFF TO COLLEGE AND GETS A JOB.
I STILL HAVE A LONG ROAD OF HARD WORK AHEAD OF ME. —— AT LEAST

What's the right move to make here?!
What should I do?!
I COULDN'T SAY ANYTHIN' TA THAT.
I THOUGHT ABOUT HOW OLD AKAR WOULD BE WHEN THAT HAPPENED...
SHE'D BE 10...
THE TOP OF B1, DOI-SAN, IS GETTING DEVOURED!!
MOMOCHI...
It looks like he's about to head-butt the board!!
THAT KIRIYAMA... IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S GOT SOME SERIOUS CONCENTRATING GOING ON...
SEX: FEMALE
What do I do so everyone can get somewhere brighter?!
KUH
What do I do?
What? What?


SFX: BACHIN BACHIN BACHIN BACHIN BACHIN BACHIN BACHIN BACHIN
WOAH. I AN TELL HIS BRAIN IS GOING INTO OVERDRIVE. HIS HEAD IS FIRING ON ALL CYLINDERS!!
SFX: GOU GOUN GURU GURUN GURUN GUHAN KURUN GURUN GOUN GOUN

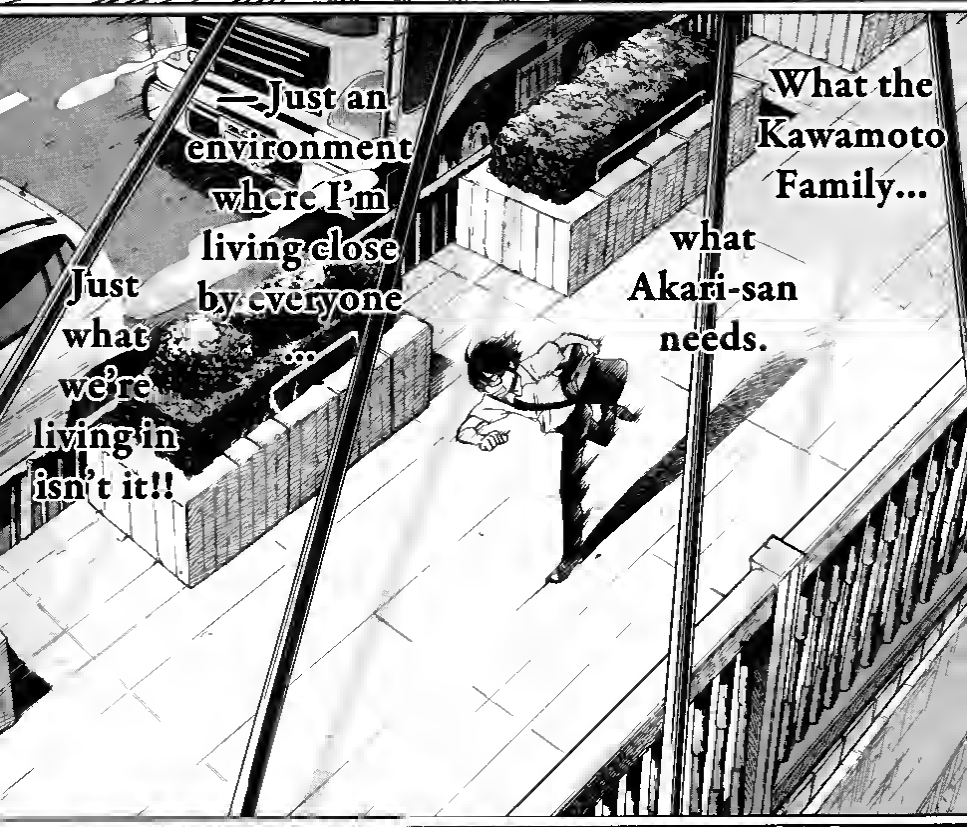
*(Explanation)
Kiriyama's brain's hard disk isn't partitioned, so when one part thinks of something, he starts to think about everything will develop on everything he's thinking about at the same time. (See diagram 1)

(Diagram 1)

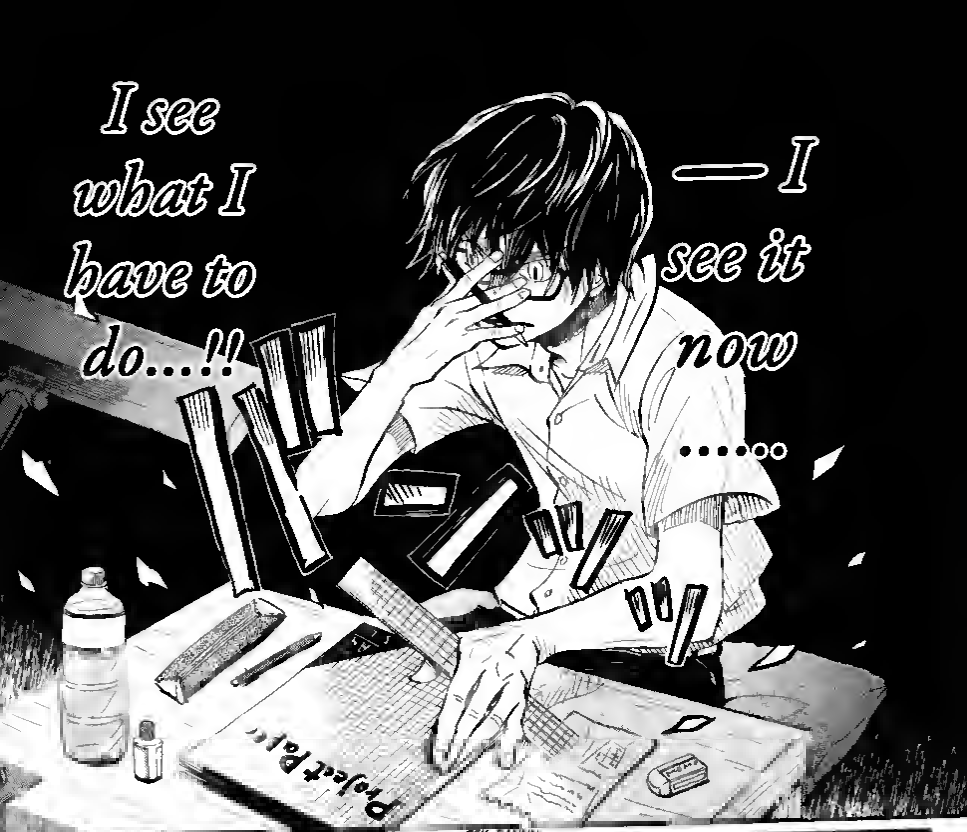
SFX: PAN PAN DOSSARI (HEAPS)
HEY, SMITH...
— I'M REALLY INTERESTED IN WHAT'S GOING ON WITH HIS MATCH RIGHT NOW. BUT...
— BUT I'M EVEN MORE INTERESTED
どさー
THAT LOOK LIKE THEY'RE BURSTING OUT FROM HIS BAG...
IN THE TONS OF CATALOGS AND PAMPHLET-LOOKING THINGS
MM... I'M QUITE CONCERNED ABOUT THAT AS WELL...
'2-FAMILY RESIDENCE QUICK-UNDER STANDING GUIDE', A SMALL PLOT OF LAND IS OKAY! ☆ 3-STORY BUILDING SPECIAL EDITION'
'RENOVATION TO MAKE YOUR HOME JUST LIKE A NEW BUILDING' Q & A
What... is going on with him...? He's renovating? Uh, wasn't he renting? Or maybe he got caught up in the moment and bought a secondhand house? Unless it tell us about it...? When he's only 19 years old??
Deep bow.
AH, LOOKS LIKE THE GAME'S OVER
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
Won.
By the way, Kuryama-kun, are you renovating?
How much money do you have to spend on it? Are you getting a loan from the bank? Which is your main bank?
THAT WAS QUICK. IT'S LIKE 4 O'CLOCK, RIGHT?
—UH, DOI-SAN, DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE GETTING A BIT TOO INTO HIS RENOVATION THING?!!
SFX: PEKORI... (BOW)
I SEE.
DAMMIT!
—SO THEN UNDER CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES, THERE'S A LIMIT TO HOW MANY EXPANSIONS OF THE BUILDINGS WE CAN MAKE, HUH...?
I GET HOW 'BUILDING-TO-LAND RATIO' WORKS!! OKAY.
—IN THAT CASE, GETTING A BIGGER SECONDHAND HOUSE NEARBY WOULD BE BETTER THAN MAKING EXPANSIONS...
—SO THEN IF I GET A SECONDHAND HOUSE, THEN LOAN AMOUNT FROM THE BANK WILL GO DOWN, SO THEN INCOME WILL BE A PROBLEM...
I GUESS THEN JUST FOCUSING PURELY ON THE TITLE MATCH PRELIMINARIES WON'T WORK, I'LL NEED TO STUDY EVERYTHING...!!
*He's 19 years old
SFX: GOOOO... OO... BASA... BASA (FLAPPING) BUH BUH BUH BUH... (MUMBLING)

I'VE JUST GOT THIS FUZZY SEN-SATION ...
LIKE A DOOR IS ABOUT TO OPEN ..
LIKE SOMETHING ABOUT TO CLICK INTO PLACE..
BUT.. WHAT WAS THAT?! I'VE BEEN SENSING SOMETHING FOR A WHILE NOW..
SFX: BORO BORO (CRUMPLING)
— FOR SOME REASON, I JUST COULDN'T SOLVE THAT ONE PROBLEM. INGENIOUS SHOGI PROBLEMS #99 SMOKE MATE, 117-MOVE MATE, FINALLY!!!!
I first started on that problem in elementary school and now, 8 years later, I finally solved it?!!! Step-Dad, I did it!!!
WITH 5-6 RYUU, THERE'D BE A DISCOVERED CHECK, THROUGH WHICH I COULD FORCE A 5-5 FU RATIO!! THEN I'D JUST NEED TO CORNER THEM AT THE EDGE...
*His brain is having a fever!!
SFX: GAKU GAKU (SHAKING)
5-6 Ryuu
HA!!
THAT'S RIGHT! 5-6 RYUU!!
SFX: PARTTTTINNNN
T/N: INGENIOUS SHOGI PROBLEMS (SHOUGI ZUKOO) IS A FAMOUS SHOGI BOOK WRITTEN BY KANJU ITOU IN 1756 SAID TO BE THE MOST PROMINENT COLLECTION OF MATING SHOGI PUZZLES IN THE EDO ERA.

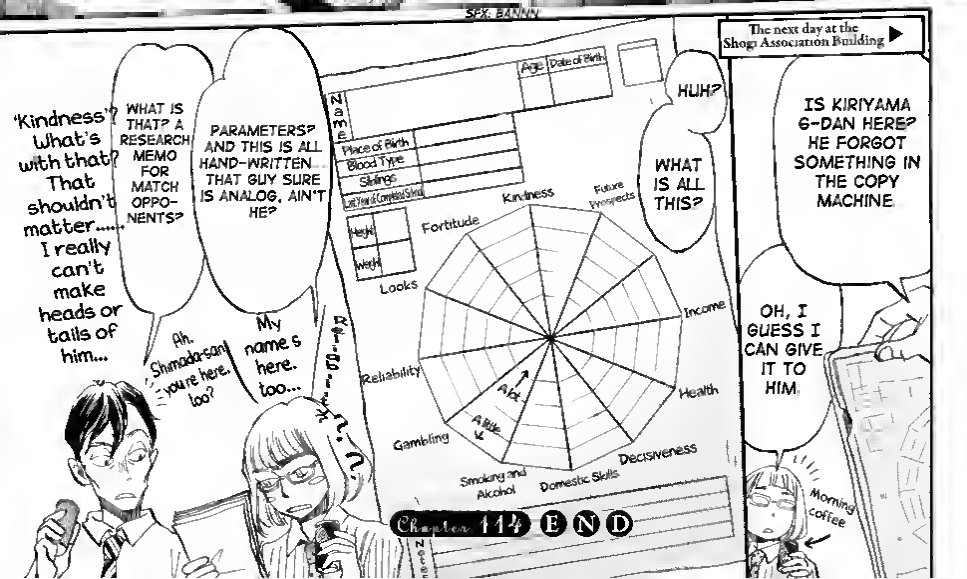
I've got it.

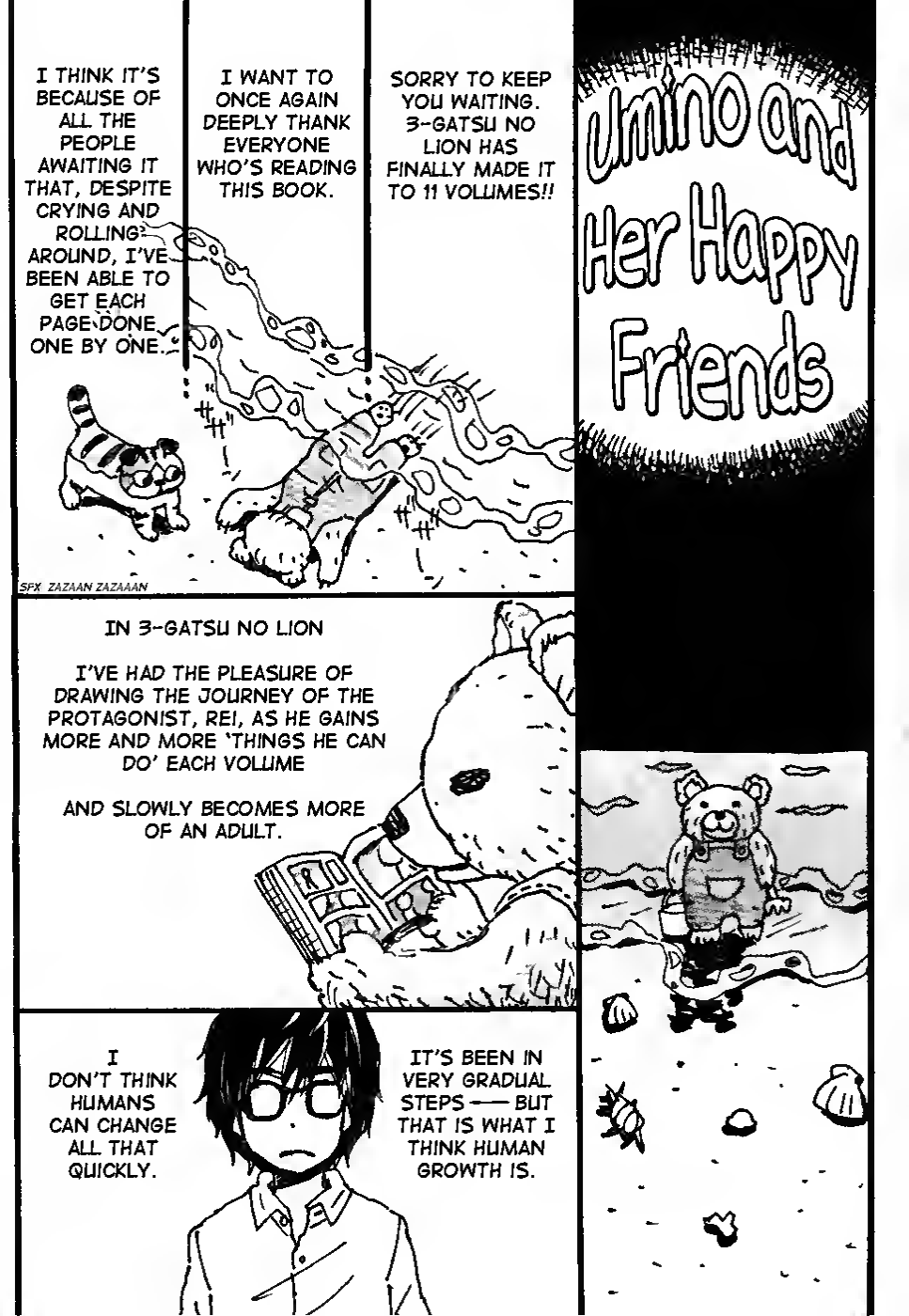

—Just an environment where I'm living close by everyone...
What the Kawamoto Family...
what Akari-san needs.
Just what we're living in isn't it!!

What Akari-san needs
is someone to be there with her,
someone to support her,
a life partner!!!!


I see what I have to do...!!
—I see it now
.....
Project Plan

SFX: BANNN


The next day at the Shogi Association Building
IS KIRIYAMA 6-DAN HERE? HE FORGOT SOMETHING IN THE COPY MACHINE.
OH, I GUESS I CAN GIVE IT TO HIM.
Morning coffee
HUH?
WHAT IS ALL THIS?
Name
Age
Date of Birth
Place of Birth
Blood Type
Siblings
Last Year of Compulsory Schooling
Height
Weight
Looks
Fortitude
Kindness
Future Prospects
Income
Health
Decisiveness
Domestic Skills
Smoking and Alcohol
Gambling
Reliability
A lot
A little
PARAMETERS? AND THIS IS ALL HAND-WRITTEN. THAT GUY SURE IS ANALOG, AIN'T HE?
WHAT IS THAT? A RESEARCH MEMO FOR MATCH OPPONENTS?
'Kindness'? What's with that? That shouldn't matter..... I really can't make heads or tails of him...
Ah, Shimada-san - you're here, too?
My name's here, too...
Chapter 114 END


I THINK IT'S BECAUSE OF ALL THE PEOPLE AWAITING IT THAT, DESPITE CRYING AND ROLLING AROUND, I'VE BEEN ABLE TO GET EACH PAGE DONE ONE BY ONE.
I WANT TO ONCE AGAIN DEEPLY THANK EVERYONE WHO'S READING THIS BOOK.
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING. 3-GATSU NO LION HAS FINALLY MADE IT TO 11 VOLUMES!!
Umino and Her Happy Friends
SFX ZAZAAN ZAZAAAN
IN 3-GATSU NO LION
I'VE HAD THE PLEASURE OF DRAWING THE JOURNEY OF THE PROTAGONIST, REI, AS HE GAINS MORE AND MORE 'THINGS HE CAN DO' EACH VOLUME
AND SLOWLY BECOMES MORE OF AN ADULT.
I DON'T THINK HUMANS CAN CHANGE ALL THAT QUICKLY.
IT'S BEEN IN VERY GRADUAL STEPS —— BUT THAT IS WHAT I THINK HUMAN GROWTH IS.

QUITE A LOT OF TIME HAS PASSED BEFORE I BECAME AN 'ADULT', BUT THERE WAS NEVER ANY SORT OF 'BOUNDARY LINE' THAT SPECIFICALLY SEPARATED MY CHILDHOOD FROM MY ADULTHOOD.

I THINK IT'S MORE OF A GRADATION OVER THE COURSE OF EXPERIENCING THOUSANDS OF LITTLE EVENTS...

EVEN NOW THE 'CORE OF ME' IS STILL NO DIFFERENT FROM ME WHEN I WAS IN KINDERGARTEN I'M ALWAYS SPINNING IN CIRCLES WORRYING

—BUT JUST LIKE HOW A 'SPRING' LOOKS LIKE IT JUST TWISTS AROUND AND AROUND IN ONE SPOT BUT SLOWLY RISES UP IN A SPIRAL PATTERN,

MAYBE IF YOU LOOK AT MY JOURNEY FROM A DISTANCE IT LOOKS LIKE ONE LONG POLL GOING STRAIGHT UP.

*I THINK I MAY SOMEDAY DRAW THIS STORY IN *LION*

STARTING ON THE NEXT PAGE IS A SHORT STORY CALLED 'FIGHTER'.

IT'S THE STORY OF REI GOING FROM WHEN HE WAS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TO THE PRESENT.

THE IMPETUS FOR MY WRITING THIS STORY WAS THE BEAUTIFUL WORDS AND MELODY OF THE SONG 'FIGHTER' BY BUMP OF CHICKEN.

I WANT TO SHOW MY HEARTFELT APPRECIATION TO THEM...

BECAUSE OF THEIR SONG I WAS ABLE TO PROPERLY THINK ABOUT 'REI-KUN' AND 'MYSELF' ONCE AGAIN. THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH.

—NOW THEN, GO ON AND MEET THE REI-KUN

FROM BEFORE '3-GATSU NO LION' VOLUME 1 BEGAN.

AND I HOPE I CAN MEET YOU LIKE THIS AGAIN IN THE NEXT VOLUME.

3月のライオン

March comes in like a lion

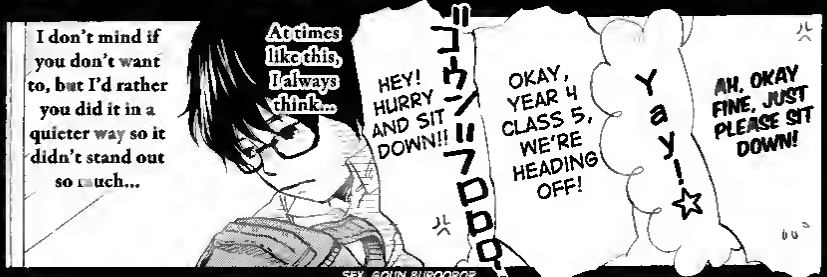
Chico Umjon

FIGHTER

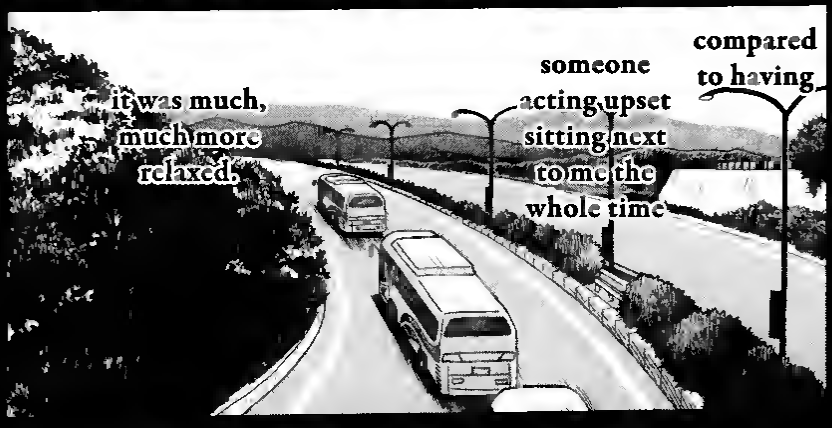
The seat next to me is always empty.

SFX: UEEEEEHHH

THERE'RE OTHE EMPTY SEATS! YOU DON'T MIND, RIGHT, SENSEI?!
KANEDA-KUN, C'MON, SIT DOWN!
Sheesh
HEY! IT'S OKAY, RIGHT?!
HEY, KANEDA, DON'T BE SELFISH!!
UH, SENSEI!! SENSEI!!
HURRY AND SIT DOWN!! THE FIRST CLASS LEFT ALREADY!
SENSEI!! CAN, CAN I CHANGE MY SEAT?!


I don't mind if you don't want to, but I'd rather you did it in a quieter way so it didn't stand out so much...
At times like this, I always think...
ゴウン ゴウン ブロロ...
HEY! HURRY AND SIT DOWN!!
OKAY, YEAR 4 CLASS 5, WE'RE HEADING OFF!
Yay!☆
AH, OKAY FINE, JUST PLEASE SIT DOWN!
SFX: GOUN BUROOROR...

I mean
It was a bit relieved ...
when the bus started moving
But


it was much, much more relaxed.
someone acting upset sitting next to me the whole time
compared to having

SFX KYAA KYAA WAA WAA
GO AHEAD!!
OKAY, FREE TIME!!
I WANT YOU ALL TO GO TO THE BATHROOM IF YOU NEED TO AND ANYTHING LIKE THAT AND BE BACK BY THE BUS AN HOUR AND A HALF FROM NOW!
OKAY, THEN WE'LL TAKE LUNCH HERE!
OKAAY
MYA HA HA HA
kyaa
ワァ
ワァ

What do I do now...?
Oh, man...
There's not a single escape zone!!
This field is huuuge ...
KYAAA
KYA
HA HA HA HA
HA HA HA HA
KYA
HA HA HA HA

That would be the worst!!
I reaaally don't want to end up as the topic fot next week's homeroom !!
Okay everyone think about this seriously !!
Heey, Kiriyama, what're ya doing eating all by yourself? ☆
And on top of that, if a teaeh-et sees me
Ya can't go doing thaaaat! ☆
I stand out too much. I could die out here.
— Geez,
Eat lunch here? In this huge wide place, alone?

Being disliked by everyone is hard on its own.

Why do I need to be publicly humiliated on top of that? There's no way it's going to be solved! It's just gonna highlight how disliked I am! ...Yeah I have to avoid that!!!

OH, I KNOW.
I'LL JUST LAY OUT A CLEAR FILE FOLDER AND I'LL BE FINE...
COLD
UWA!
AND IT'S WET.
HOH...
HEW.
OKAY,
I MADE IT!
AH,
I KNOW.....
MM...
YES, THAT'S IT...
THERE'RE LOTS OF ANTS!
WAWAH!
WAWA! DON'T CLIMB ON MY LUNCH!

licking it so it melts and carry it that way?
Do they do it by
HOW DO ANTS CARRY SWEETS?
COME TO THINK OF IT,
SFX: KASA
SFX: MOGU
...With those little mouths ...?
My step-dad who adopted me is a shogi player.
They say he turned pro at age 19.
THAT'S INCREDIBLE, REI!! I DIDN'T SOLVE THAT ONE UNTIL I WAS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL!!
YOU SOLVED THE 85-MOVE MATE?!
OOF
The 117-move mate Dad wrote out from his book for me.....

I wonder if I solve this problem
get happy again...?
Dad'll
Hah
Oh maaan!
I haven't cleaned up yet!
HUH?
IT'S BEEN AN HOUR AND A HALF ALREADY?!
Got caught up in his thoughts
P-----I
KYAA
KYAA
Cmon! run!
Everybody either over here
HA HA HA HA HA
KYAAAA
SFX: ZORO ZORO ZORO SHUSHING
WOAH!!
THE CANDY !!
IT'S ALREADY THAT SMALL ?!
HUH?
AH...
DID I FORGET ANYTHIING ...?
UMM, UHHH,

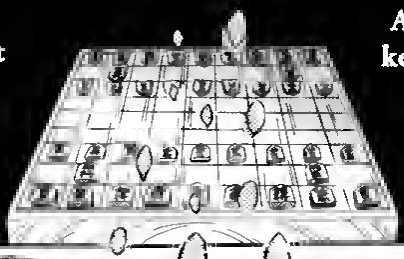
HUH?
KIRIYAMA, WHERE'S YOUR NEIGHBOR?
IS THERE ANYONE WHOSE NEIGHBOR DIDN T COME BACK?!
OKAY, WE RE GONNA GET GOING!
HEY, KIRIYAMA !!
YOU'RE LATE!! WHERE'D YOU GET OFF TO?!!
SORRY UH, THE TOILET WAS CROWDED
— I never knew ants could melt a sweet like that sooo fast despite being so small...
I NEVER HAD ONE IN THE FIRST PLACE!
IT'S OKAY.
AH, ? ? ?
'I never had one in the first place.'
The moment I promptly gave that answer I got choked up inside.....
stay empty for my whole life...?
Will the seat next to me
Sensei...
LET'S GET GOING!
OKAY. THEN WE'RE ALL HERE.
AH, REALLY ?
SFX: OKAAY! OKAAY! KYAH KYAH WEEE KYAHOOY

—— OKAY,
NEXT IS A MATCH AGAINST THE 5TH CHAIR
SUGAWARA-KUN.
Kuriyama Rei
Let's have a good game.
For me,
that was
a magic ticket.
As long as I had that ticket,
someone was sure to
automatically
sit in front of me.

SFX: GATAH
people that hated me.
I'D HEARD KOUDA-SENSEI'S PLACE HAD TAKEN IN A PRIVATE PUPIL, BUT YOU...
WHAT? YOU'RE NOT ANY GOOD.
— and of course
TH-
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
Kind people
Seeing as it's already dark out.
GODDAMMIT! I'LL SEE YA OFF TO THE STATION!!
DRINK UP. YA LIKE COCOA, RIGHT?
Goddammit
I met lots of different sorts of people.
Xaaah!!
WHAT'S WITH THIS SNOT-NOSED KID?
HE'S TOO DAMN GOOD, DAMMIT!!
GRRR

— But somebody would always sit in front of me.

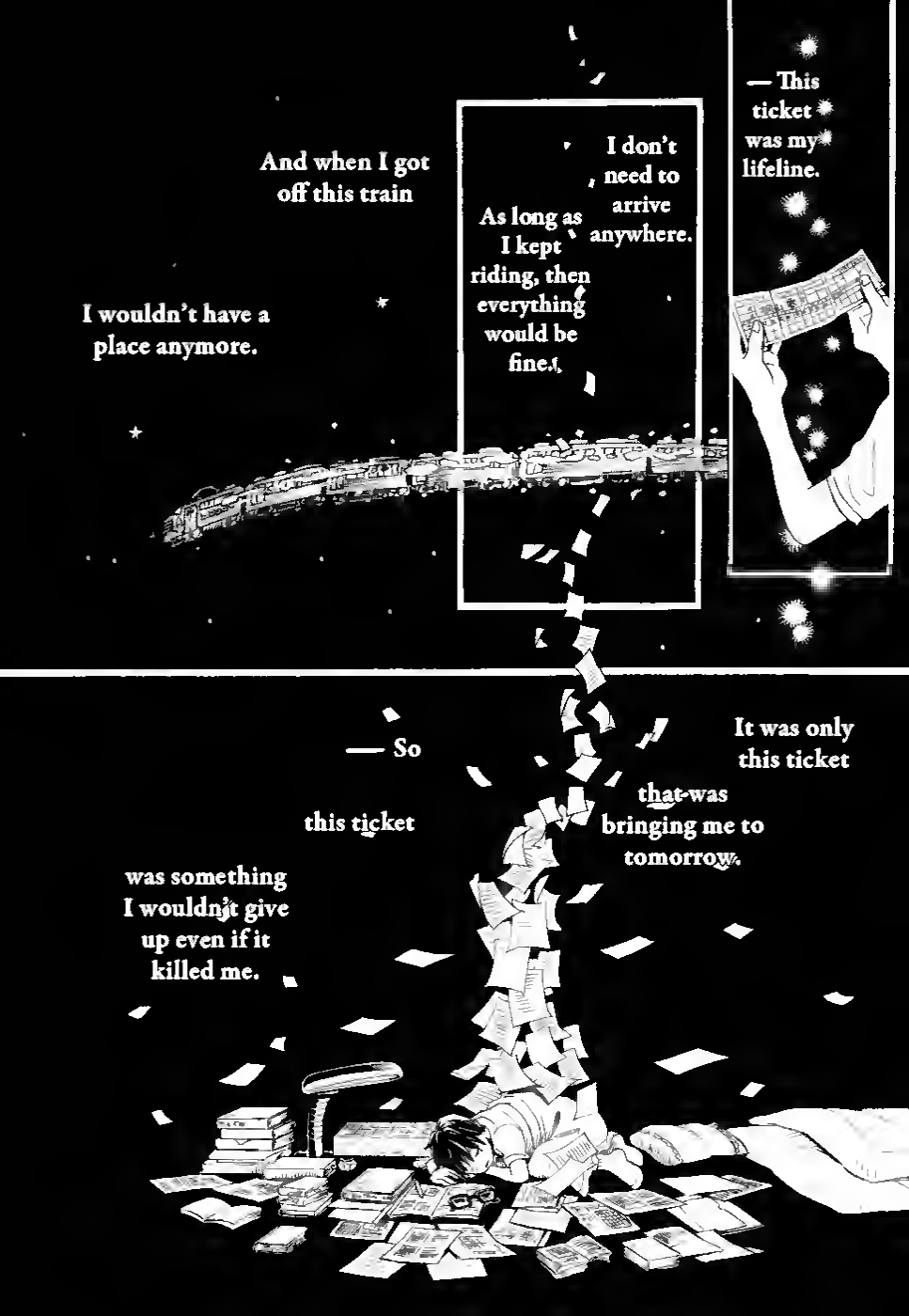
As long as I kept fighting



'This is the ticket'.

While I was holding this ticket

I had a place in the world.


And when I got off this train
I wouldn't have a place anymore.
I don't need to arrive anywhere.
As long as I kept riding, then everything would be fine.
— This ticket was my lifeline.
— So this ticket was something I wouldn't give up even if it killed me.
It was only this ticket that was bringing me to tomorrow.

I had to protect it...
— whatever I had to do in exchange.
KIRIYAMA
KIRIYAMA
KIRIYAMA
KIRIYAMA
HEY, KIRIYAMA!
KIRIYAMA!
!!
ZZZZ
WHAT'RE YOU SPACING OUT FOR?
C'MON, SIT DOWN!!
HMMMM...
THEY'RE MOVING! IT'S AWESOME !!
●5-3 FU PROMOTE SACRIFICE PROMOTION WAS A GOOD MOVE!! WHAT'S THE COUNTER FOR ▲SAME KIN THEN △7-7 HI?!
WHAT DO YOU THINK, KIRIYAMA?
SEN, DASUKE MASUTO

HOW MUCH TIME IS LEFT AVAILABLE?
FUJIMOTO KIRYUU HAS 8 MINUTES, AND SHIMADA-SAN IS ALREADY DOWN TO 3.
AGAINST ▲7-7 HI, HE SHOULD HIT THE HEAD OF THE HISHA
COME OUT WITH △6-4 KIN, TAKING THE INITIATIVE AND DEFENDING!!
I haven't changed.
△6-4 KIN?! WHAT, NOT △4-3 FU?
IF HE DID THAT, THEN ▲6-2 KAKU WOULD BE REALLY TOUGH!
— And
those around me
haven't changed either.

played
and played
All that happened
was on days where I felt overwhelmed, I fervently
and kept playing.
And meanwhile
one day, suddenly realized
I was traveling together with people that were headed
to the same place where light shines.

Our journey to that place where light shines

continues.

END

To everyone that helped me in working on
3-Gatsu no Lion Volume 11.

Habu Yoshiharu Meijin.
Itodani Tetsurou Ryuu-ou.
Watanabe Akira Ki-Ou.
Kouda Masataka Ou-Shou.
Tanikawa Kouji 9-dan.
Moriuchi Toshiyuki 9-dan.
Katou Hifumi 9-dan.
Senzaki Manabu 9-dan.
Namekata Hisashi 8-dan.
Hirose Akihito 8-dan.
Toyoshima Masayuki 7-dan

Everyone in
☆BUMP OF CHICKEN☆
Fujiwara-san.
Masukawa-san.
Naoi-san.
Masu-san

The people that assisted me
Juku-chou.
Wakita-san.
Betty.
Macchan.
Emily.
Chochan

The designer. Nawata-sama.
everyone at Toppan Printing.
bookstore workers across the country.

I am truly indebted to you.
I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart.....

3月のライオン おさらい読本 初級編

JETS COMICS 既刊 白泉社刊

大好評 羽海野チカ 発売中!!

これで『3月のライオン』が今までよりもっともっと最高になります!!

作中に実際に出て来た、**色んな場所を訪問&棋譜をディープ解説&料理をレシピ付きで再現!!**

ヤングアニマル誌面&WEBで発表した**キャラクター人気投票**とさらに充実の内容でお届け!!

読者の皆さんが選んだ**名場面**も棋想とともに**初紹介**です!!

カバーイラストは描き下ろし!!

ここでしか読めない**描き下ろし漫画**もあり☆

羽海野先生へのQ&Aや唐沢・T田さんとの対談など、

このファンブックのための**新企画**も満載です。

さらに

松井玲奈さん×『3月のライオン』コラボグラビア、

三浦涼太郎・森信二・伏土隆が、羽海野チカを語る座談会、

「ニコ・ニコルソンのマンガ道場破り」羽海野版応募編など、

YA誌面で大好評だった企画も再録!!

見逃した人、手に入れられなかった人へ☆

既刊発売時書店向け宣伝POP用に描き下ろしたイラストや一部書店特典だったコミックス版限定ペーパーを**再録しました!!**

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青春の日々！
主人公（棋士）は日本将棋連盟会長。
神宮寺崇徳。舞台は昭和41年。
若き日の神宮寺には、
倒さねばならない相手がいた。
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【初出】
ヤングアニマル2014年23、24号、2015年4、5、7、8、10、11、12、14号
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JETS COMICS 182

3月のライオン 11

March comes in like a lion
Chica Umino

2015年10月5日第1刷発行

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矢倉孝裕

【発行所】
株式会社白泉社
〒101-0063 東京都千代田区神田淡路町2-2 2
電話 [編集]03-3526-8055
[販売]03-3526-8010
[制作]03-3526-8020

【印刷所】
凸版印刷株式会社

【装丁】
名和田耕平デザイン事務所

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ISBN978-4-592 14521 9 Printed in Japan HAKUSENSHA

白泉社ホームページ http://www.hakusensha.co.jp

3-GATSU NO LION VOLUME 11

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